

# Visit Windsor & Beyond

## Travel Trade Guide



Discover places to stay, places to visit, tour guides, itineraries and events around the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

[www.windsor.gov.uk/travel-trade](http://www.windsor.gov.uk/travel-trade)

# Welcome to the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

Dear Travel Trade and Group Organisers,

Are your customers looking for a stylish break, close enough to the capital to assert a cosmopolitan air, yet far enough away to offer a slightly more relaxed pace of life in a surprisingly rural setting?

Crown Estate, National Trust and Green Belt land make this region one of the greenest in the South East. Add to that arguably the most stunning 20-mile stretch of the River Thames, 1,000 years of history and an unrivalled royal heritage, and it's easy to see why it has become home to some of the country's top sporting and cultural events, a few of the UK's most iconic visitor attractions and some surprising hidden gems.

Windsor Castle is the dazzling centrepiece sat high on the hill for all to admire, but in this guide, you'll find inspiration for things to see and do, activities and experiences beyond the Castle. From boat trips to bus tours, and from museums to escape rooms via Legoland, an arts centre and our very own brewery. Whether you're creating tours for groups or independent travellers, we've got ideas aplenty.

Even better, so many of our visitor attractions, hotels and restaurants are highly accessible and developing sustainable models of operation.

We look forward to welcoming every kind of customer to VisitWindsor.

*J. White*

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# Windsor for All

The Royal Borough is delighted to be at the forefront of developing its tourism product to be as accessible as possible to visitors with access requirements.

VisitWindsor has worked with **AccessAble** to produce **Destination Access Guides** for Windsor, Eton, Ascot and Maidenhead providing detailed factual information on various shops, hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions. Many partners also have listings on AccessAble (the new name for Disabled Go), like [Windsor Castle](#), [The Savill Garden](#), [French Brothers](#) and [Sir Christopher Wren Hotel](#).

Plus many others have a range of information on their own websites, for example:

**Ascot Racecourse** is proud to provide an accessible environment for everyone. Guests requiring accessible access can be accommodated at all Racecourse entrances, and once inside there are ramps and lifts to different areas. There is a six-page [Map and Accessibility Guide](#) available on our website and a comprehensive [FAQ section](#).

There is also a dedicated Access Officer who can be reached on [access.officer@ascot.com](mailto:access.officer@ascot.com) to answer any questions you may have in advance about your raceday.

**Windsor Castle** is accessible. Concessionary rates are available for visitors with disabilities, and an accompanying companion is admitted free of charge. The Castle is situated at the top of a steep hill, long distances have to be covered and much of the site is outdoors.

An accessible café, toilets, and a **Changing Places** are available. Registered assistance dogs are welcome and a number of Wardens are Dementia Friends, please ask staff for any assistance. The multimedia guide is available in British Sign Language (BSL) and with subtitles.

For detailed access information, please visit the [Royal Collection Trust website](#).



The Long Walk, Windsor

**The LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort** strives to make sure that the Theme Park, Resort Hotels and other awesome attractions are easily accessible to all their guests.

An Accessibility Experience Team and Guest Services are on hand to assist before and during visits.

Visit Legoland's [website](#) for lots of useful information including an Accessibility Guide, Sensory Guide, Ride Access Pass and Carer tickets.



We are delighted to have become the destination of choice for **Parallel Windsor** - a Festival of Inclusivity with Challenge Events for all ages, health conditions and abilities. Held in the grounds of Windsor Great Park and staged on the Long Walk each year.

**For more details on accessibility within the Royal Borough, please visit the [destination website](#).**



Windsor Castle multimedia guide has British Sign Language and subtitles



The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park



# Sustainable Visits

Our vision is to be a borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a sustainable future; by protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving rapid decarbonisation to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest.



Sustainability doesn't have to mean that your tours sacrifice glamour for convenience or prestige for practicality. Individual businesses are adapting how they do things to become more sustainable including the ones mentioned here.

There are locally-brewed craft beers, a gin distiller and dining establishments striving to source and serve local ingredients. Many hotel estates grow their own herbs and vegetables, support wildlife, keep beehives and support a quiet revolution with refillable toiletries, solar panel heating, plastic and food waste reduction, composting and rainwater harvesting.



Wild Meadow at Coworth Park

**Great Fosters** recently switched to 100% renewable electricity supply, mainly derived from offshore wind-power farms. The **Runnymede Hotel** successfully diverts 100% of waste from landfill sites and uses an Eco-Safe Digester to aerobically digest all food waste. There's an underground energy centre at **Coworth Park**, which is the UK's only hotel to grow its own fuel by cultivating willow on the estate for use in the biomass heating plant.



Local craft beers at The George Pub, Eton



Windsor Great Park



Windsor Estate Gin

## DID YOU KNOW?

The **Macdonald Windsor Hotel** has begun to implement the Room 15 sustainability programme - a more sustainable and ethical approach to the hospitality industry. It's started by installing hives on its roof to protect bees in an urban environment. Plus, the **De Vere Beaumont Estate** has a Green Tourism Award and **Royal Berkshire Hotel** in Ascot is B Corp certified so they have serious eco and sustainability credentials too.

# Whats on in Windsor

## MARCH 🍃

[Royal Windsor Wheel \(March – September\)](#)

## MAY 🍃

[Royal Windsor Horse Show](#)

[Cookham Festival](#)

[Special exhibition at Windsor Castle](#) (theme changes annually)



## JUNE ☀️

[Royal Ascot](#)

[Royal Windsor Triathlon](#)

[Royal Windsor Flower Show](#)

[Guards Polo Club Cartier Queen's Cup](#)

[Windsor Food Festival](#)

## JULY ☀️

[Parallel Windsor](#)

[Royal Swan Upping](#)

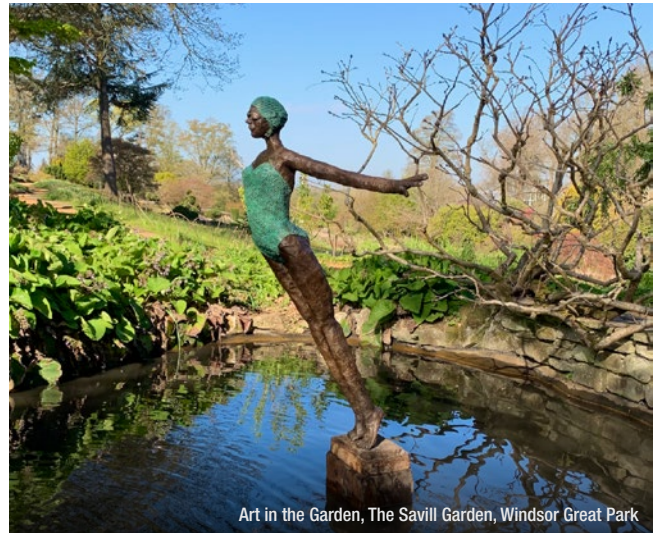
[Windsor Championship Dog Show](#)

[Windsor Beer Festival](#)

## AUGUST ☀️

Race meetings at Ascot and Windsor racecourses continue

[Eton Heritage Tours](#) (May - Sept)



Art in the Garden, The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park

## SEPTEMBER 🍂

[Windsor Festival](#)

[Savill Garden Art in the Garden](#)

[Eton Action Fair](#)

## OCTOBER 🍂

[LEGOLAND® Windsor's Brick or Treat](#) The most spook-tacular event of the year!

## NOVEMBER-JANUARY ❄️ ❄️

[Windsor Great Park Illuminated](#)

[Theatre Royal Windsor pantomime](#)

A full calendar of events is available at

[www.windsor.gov.uk/whats-on](http://www.windsor.gov.uk/whats-on).



The Royal Windsor Flower Show



# Festive Season

The Royal Borough at Christmas has an abundance of baubles and lights, Christmas music being played, good food and merriment in picturesque settings.

There's always a fabulous line-up of events, Christmas lights switch-ons, Christmas Fayres and Festive Markets. Allow time for shopping for unique gifts and gorgeous decorations. Experience Windsor Castle decked with twinkling lights, garlands and shimmering Christmas trees. Book a Christmas lunch, dinner or even a party!



Pantomime at Theatre Royal Windsor



Christmas racing at Ascot



Church Street, Windsor, in the snow

## CHRISTMAS IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH

- Christmas at the Castle
- Windsor Great Park Illuminated
- Living Advent Calendar
- Pantomime at the Theatre Royal
- Windsor on Ice
- Light projections on the Castle
- Father Christmas at the Royal Windsor Farm Shop
- Howden Christmas Racing Weekend at Ascot Racecourse
- LaplandUK



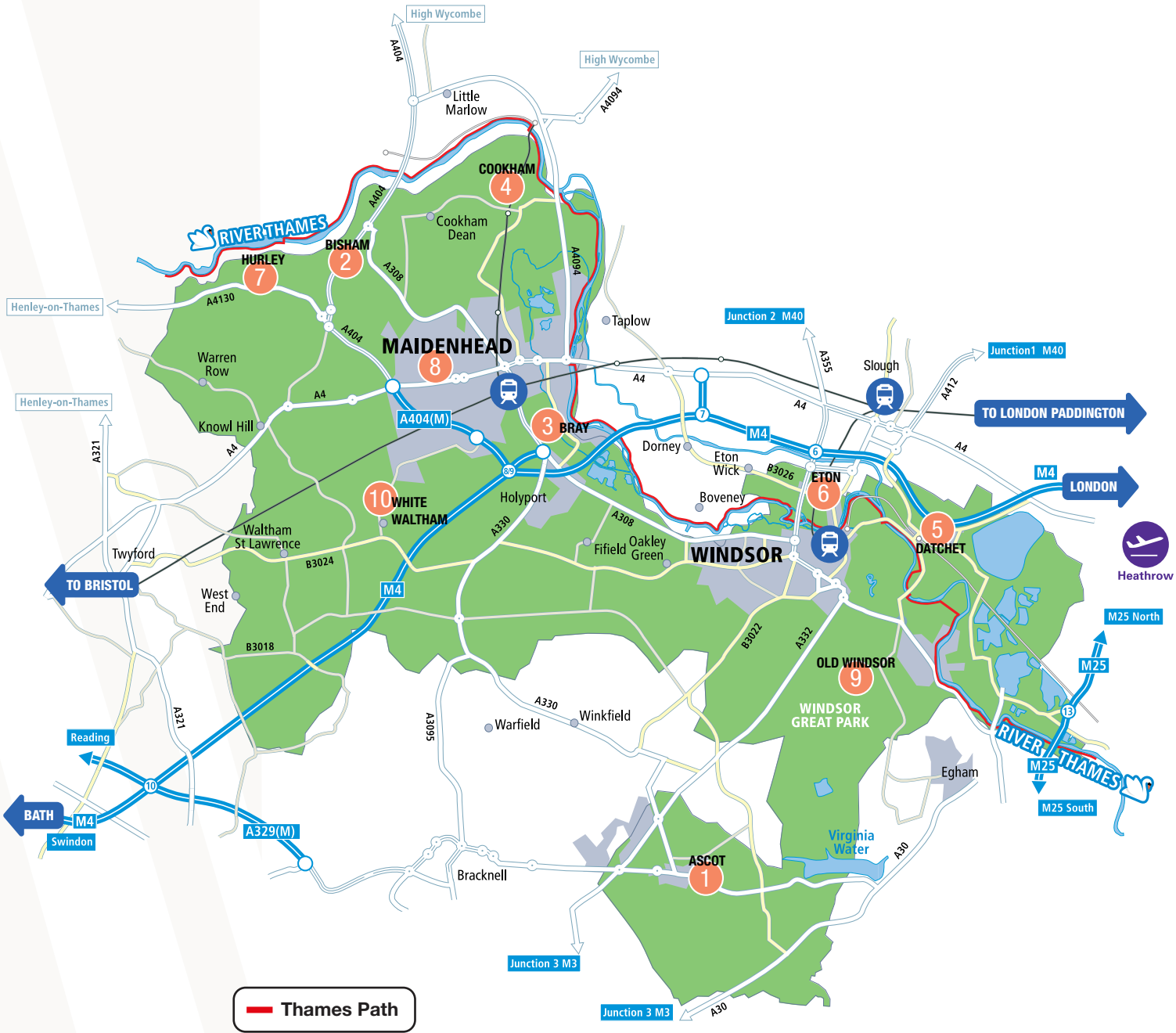
To see everything that is going on in the Royal Borough at Christmas please visit the [destination website](#).



Windsor Great Park Illuminated

# Explore the Royal Borough

Crowned by **Windsor Castle** and linked by the **River Thames**, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead has a rich mix of history, heritage and culture.



More detailed information on the towns and villages is available at [www.windsor.gov.uk/explore/towns-and-villages](http://www.windsor.gov.uk/explore/towns-and-villages).

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### 1 ASCOT (EAST COTE)

In 1711 it was Queen Anne who first saw the potential for a racecourse at East Cote while out riding and the first race took place that year. By 1752 the popularity of attending the racing at **Ascot** was popular in social circles.

2 **BISHAM** The dense woods at Bisham provide a dramatic backdrop to its historic buildings. The best known sight in the village is Bisham Abbey, actually a 13th-century manor house built by the Knights Templar. Today it's a conference centre and base of the National Sports Centre.

3 **BRAY** Is a pretty riverside parish between Maidenhead and Windsor, offering fine dining with worldwide acclaim due to the Michelin stars acquired by its resident chefs including Heston Blumenthal and Alain Roux. In this quaint village there are seven stars shared between the Waterside Inn, the Fat Duck and The Hinds Head.

4 **COOKHAM** Is one of the most popular Thameside resorts with its many superb pubs, restaurants and independent retailers. It's home to the **Stanley Spencer Gallery**. One of the greatest British artists of the 20th century, Sir Stanley Spencer was born in the village in 1891. A visit to the gallery is highly recommended followed by a walk around the village and along the Thames Path in the footsteps of the genius himself.

5 **DATCHET** Sits on the banks of the Thames and was the inspiration for Sir Izaak Walton who wrote *The Compleat Angler*. Shakespeare mentioned the village in the *Merry Wives of Windsor* along with Datchet Mead where Falstaff was dumped into a ditch by the Thames. To commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 an oak tree was planted in the middle of the village; a neighbouring tree was planted for her Diamond Jubilee.



6 **ETON** On the opposite bank of the Thames to Windsor, Eton has been a settlement since Saxon times. The town quickly grew along the present High Street during the Middle Ages in response to the growth of Windsor. It is impossible to think of Eton without reference to its famous public school, **Eton College**. Founded in 1440 by Henry VI, the college at Eton was modelled on the new college at Winchester. Take a stroll from the bridge along the High Street. Don't miss an original marker for the first-ever modern marathon route from Windsor to London from the 1908 London Olympics, or Timbralls where James Bond creator, Ian Fleming, lived during his time at Eton.

7 **HURLEY** The river has always been central to the history of Hurley with records of a ford going back to the 6th century. A monastery was founded here in 1086 and dissolved in 1536. Here you'll find the Olde Bell Inn which dates from 1135 and was built as the monastic guest house. It is one of the oldest pubs in England

8 **MAIDENHEAD** The largest town in the Royal Borough, whose history can be told through its river, its roads and its railway at **Maidenhead Heritage Centre**. 'Grandma flew Spitfires' is the only exhibition in the world dedicated solely to the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), many of whom were women, one of the forgotten stories of World War II. Don't miss Isambard Kingdom Brunel's famous brick-built Sounding Arch, which carries the rail line over the Thames. The arch was the setting for Turner's lyrical and dynamic painting *Rain, Steam, Speed* (1844). The beech woods that rise steeply on the east bank of the river here lead to **Cliveden**, set on the cliffs, 200 feet above the Thames. Cliveden was once the home of Lady Astor; the house is now a hotel, surrounded by nearly 400 acres of National Trust gardens and woodland and was where Ms Meghan Markle stayed the night before her marriage to Prince Harry

9 **OLD WINDSOR** Was the oldest Saxon town in Berkshire and the seat of Edward the Confessor. It continued in importance up until about 1100 when it was gradually overshadowed by the building of Windsor Castle two miles upstream. The parish includes within its boundaries most of Windsor Great Park. On the outskirts of Old Windsor is the **Windsor Farm Shop**, stocking a range of products from the Royal Estates and Windsor Farms as well as small local specialist suppliers. Close by is historic **Runnymede**.

10 **WHITE WALTHAM** During World War II an airfield was established at White Waltham which was subsequently used as the headquarters of Home Command of the RAF.





# Royal Windsor

There is no escaping the strong connection between the Royal Family and the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. On 17 July 1917, George V changed the Royal Family's official name from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor.

## HISTORY

**Windsor Castle** is an official residence of His Majesty The King and was Queen Elizabeth II's favourite weekend home. See following page for more information.

Don't miss the historic **Windsor Guildhall**, set just in front of the Castle and featuring clever architecture by Sir Christopher Wren. It was chosen by King Charles for his wedding to Camilla Parker-Bowles, and Sir Elton John for his civil partnership.



## SHOPPING

**Windsor Royal** celebrates the integration of Windsor Yards and Windsor Royal Station Shopping Centres into one, fantastic offering. Windsor Royal offers fabulous shopping and eating, by appointment to everyone.

**Windsor Farm Shop** opened originally to sell locally-sourced goods and produce from the Royal Estates and Windsor Farms. Today coaches are welcome to pull in and passengers can enjoy tea in the coffee shop as well as buy edible souvenirs.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Choose the right day to visit to catch **Changing the Guard**: it takes place all year round on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, weather permitting.

For more details on royal connections and how to experience them, please see the [destination website](https://www.windsor.gov.uk).



# Windsor Castle

**Windsor Castle** is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. It's been the family home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years and is today one of the official residences of His Majesty The King.

Occupying over 10.5 hectares, the Castle offers a varied day out for visitors, including a visit to the magnificent **State Apartments** and **St George's Chapel**. The Castle's State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works from the Royal Collection, reflecting the changing tastes of the Castle's royal occupants, particularly those of Charles II and George IV. Among the masterpieces on display are paintings by Holbein, Rubens and Van Dyck, Sèvres porcelain and exquisite English and French furniture.

The largest and most famous Dolls' House in the world is also on display. **Queen Mary's Dolls' House** is a perfect 1:12 scale replica of an Edwardian residence, complete with electricity, working lifts and running water. Please note: Access to Queen Mary's Dolls' House may be limited on busy days.

Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the Castle with a free multimedia tour. From October to March, visitors can also walk through the sumptuous **Semi-State Apartments**, which served as the private rooms of George IV in the 19th century.

Refreshments can be enjoyed in the **Undercroft Café**, situated in one of the oldest medieval parts of the Castle.

Royal Collection Trust welcomes enquiries from members of the travel trade and group travel organisers in the United Kingdom and overseas.

More trade and groups information is available on the [Royal Collection Trust website](#).



His Majesty King Charles III attends Garter Day at Windsor Castle  
Royal Collection Trust/© His Majesty King Charles III 2024



The Queen's Drawing Room  
Royal Collection Trust/© His Majesty King Charles III 2024  
Photographer: Peter Smith



The Long Walk, Windsor Great Park  
Royal Collection Trust/© His Majesty King Charles III 2024



# Royalty, Horses & Racing



## POLO

The 'sport of kings' is a staple in the Royal Borough's sporting calendar at local clubs **Guards Polo Club**, Ascot Park, the Royal County of Berkshire and Coworth Park, with fixtures typically from April to September. Polo lessons are offered at a number of clubs and no experience is needed.



## CARRIAGE RIDES

Upholding time-honoured traditions, the dedicated team at **Windsor Carriages** have been offering bespoke carriage rides for over 170 years. Revel in breathtaking views of The Long Walk, soak up the local knowledge of your driver and perhaps meet a resident deer in Windsor Great Park.

**Ascot Carriages** begin their open-top carriage rides from outside The Savill Garden Visitor Centre. From this part of Windsor Great Park there are wonderful views year round from woodlands, and glorious 18th-century lakes, to grand avenues, vistas and delightful gardens.



## RACING

Since 1711, **Ascot Racecourse** has hosted the world's greatest racehorses in a setting fit for Royalty. Excitement, passion, flair, and fashion fill the grounds of the world-famous racecourse on 26 annual racedays each year. *See following page for more information.*

Set in 165 acres of beautiful countryside on the banks of the River Thames, **Royal Windsor Racecourse** hosts regular big-name concerts and events over the summer, as well as race meetings throughout the year.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The **Royal Windsor Horse Show** started in 1943 and takes place in the private grounds of Windsor Castle each May. It includes International Carriage Driving, Showing, Equestrian Displays, Show Jumping and International Endurance.



# Ascot Racecourse

**Ascot Racecourse** is a venue steeped in history, where every detail is crafted to enhance your enjoyment and makes for the perfect location to plan an unforgettable day out.

Ascot's year-round calendar of events offers a multitude of unique experiences for whatever your taste. With discounted group rates, free coach parking\* plus free driver entry\* on Ascot Racedays and an abundance of private spaces available, a day out at Ascot presents itself as the ultimate group outing.

Fine dining hospitality packages at Ascot Racecourse are available at every one of the 26 horse racing events throughout the year. Ranging from à la carte menus by Michelin-Starred chefs at Royal Ascot to the tailored experience of a private box on an Ascot Raceday, there is a hospitality option for everyone.

In addition to their fine dining hospitality options, those looking for a slightly less formal experience might opt for one of the private loges. Allowing you to soak up the electric atmosphere within the grandstand, a loge offers you a comfortable base for the day with the option to pre-purchase food and drink.

Ascot Racecourse is proud to provide an accessible environment for all racegoers. Guests requiring accessible access can be accommodated at all Racecourse entrances, with accessible facilities within the Grandstand and throughout the enclosures.

Groups joining on a General Admission basis can enjoy preferential rates when booking 7 or more tickets.

Find out more about Ascot's hospitality at the [Ascot Racecourse website](#) or for further information on groups bookings contact the dedicated Groups Team on 0344 346 3000 or [groups@ascot.com](mailto:groups@ascot.com).

*\*excludes Royal Ascot*





# Countryside, Parks & Gardens

The phrase 'England's green and pleasant land' could have been written for the beautiful countryside surrounding the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead. With more than 1,000 acres of National Trust land and 4,800 acres of Crown Estate there is so much to explore, whether on foot, by bicycle or serenely driving through.

## LANDSCAPE

**Windsor Great Park** is a must when visiting Windsor with its sweeping historic parkland, ancient woodland and award-winning gardens. The Great Park stretches for 5 miles towards Virginia Water.

The **River Thames** is such a big part of the landscape as it flows through the Royal Borough. It's simple to walk the Thames Path National Trail starting from Windsor & Eton Riverside train station.



## GARDENS

**The Savill Garden** is a hidden gem in the heart of Windsor Great Park and described as Britain's finest ornamental garden. Commissioned by George V, the Garden was created in 1932 by Sir Eric Savill. *See following page for more information*

**Dorney Court** in Dorney, near Windsor is surrounded by mature parkland and gardens including the English Rose Garden and the Dell with its sumptuous array of spring flowers. Combine a visit to the Gardens with a tour of the Tudor manor house, home to generations of the same family for over 450 years.

**Cliveden**, National Trust, near Maidenhead, offers a multitude of experiences from the Long Garden with its floral displays to the tranquil and relaxing Water Garden and the 900-strong Rose Garden. Enjoy the beautiful views and follow miles of woodland paths.



National Cycle Route marker at Eton Wick



Stunning Spring display at The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park



Statue of Albert Prince Consort on horseback, Windsor Great Park

## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a garden to enjoy for every season: daffodils and bluebells at **Dorney Court** in spring, an abundance of summer flowers at **Cliveden**, and the flaming autumn colours in **The Savill Garden**.



# The Savill Garden

The Savill Garden is a natural haven of 35 acres and recognised as one of the finest woodland gardens in the country. With seasonal displays in beautifully themed landscaped areas, groups can wander its paths, gaze at the magnificent trees, and admire its abundant variety of flowers and rare plants. A visit connects you with decades of Royal history – from the original weeping willow tree, to the magnificent Rose Garden opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2010.

Guided Tours are available for groups up to 25 on weekdays. In addition to the seasonal splendour of the inter-connected gardens you will be immersed in royal history and heritage of the Garden. Highlights include the Queen Elizabeth Temperate House, the Dry Garden and the Golden Jubilee Garden. Approx 1 hour.

## **The Savill Garden and Royal Heritage Tour**

Be fully immersed in 1,000 years of royal history with an escorted coach tour of Windsor Great Park personally guided by one of The Crown Estate's dedicated team. Sights include: Coronation Groves, The Deer Park, Royal Equestrian Statues, The Guards Polo Club, The Royal School, The Estate Village and disembark from your coach at the top of the iconic Long Walk, giving you time to take a photo towards Windsor Castle from The Copper Horse statue of George III. Available: 1 Apr–30 Sep. Mon to Fri only. Min 20/Max 55. Approx 90 minutes.

## **The Savill Garden and River Boat Cruise**

Enjoy a full group day out combining a visit to the Savill Garden with a return boat trip from historic Runnymede along the Thames. Add-on lunch and tea packages available.

## **The Savill Garden Kitchen**

Your group visit to The Savill Garden should be as relaxed as the Garden itself. Pre-book a food and beverage package with your group admission and enjoy reserved seating. Choose from morning refreshments, a choice of lunch options, or time your visit to include a cream tea. Min 10/Max 50.





# Hidden Gems

Even if you know the Windsor area well, there are some hidden gems you can easily find, just over the bridge into neighbouring Eton or a little off the beaten track around the Royal Borough's other major town, Maidenhead.

## AROUND WINDSOR

**Windsor Parish Church** of St John the Baptist is over 200 years old and features Grinling Gibbons wood carvings and is home to a 17th-century painting of the Last Supper.

**Eton High Street** Distinctive gift shops nestle amongst traditional and modern art galleries, antique shops, fashion boutiques and historic tailors. There are many al fresco cafés, and first class restaurants.



## AROUND MAIDENHEAD

**Maidenhead Heritage Centre** presents the history of Maidenhead from Roman times to the present, with a permanent exhibition on the Air Transport Auxiliary, which was stationed at nearby White Waltham. This is why you can try a Spitfire Simulator Experience as part of your visit!

Just outside Maidenhead, on the River Thames in Cookham, is where you'll find a gallery dedicated to the work of **Stanley Spencer**, one of the greatest 20th-century British artists. Group talks and tours of the Gallery and surrounding village are available, and special exhibitions change every six months.

**Norden Farm Centre for the Arts** is built on the site of an ancient dairy farm on the outskirts of Maidenhead. A thriving arts centre, open five days a week, it includes an art gallery, studio theatre, main auditorium for film and live performance, Café Bar, a Georgian farmhouse and 18th-century Long Barn which can be booked for a bespoke meal.

**Taplow Court**, a mid-19th century mansion set high above the Thames near Maidenhead, has a history going back to pre-1066. Today it's a centre for Buddhism where you can visit the house and beautiful gardens on set days of the year.

**Waltham Place** in White Waltham is a 220-acre organic and biodynamic farm of which 50 acres is woodland, a lake, ornamental and kitchen gardens. It offers a wide range of garden tours, and you can book a private group tour on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Norden Farm Centre for the Arts



Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham



Norden Farm Centre for the Arts



# Culture

There is plenty of choice for culture vultures in the Royal Borough. There are permanent performance venues and museums open year round, plus regular annual festivals and art fairs that pop up every autumn.

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Windsor's major arts venue is the Edwardian **Theatre Royal** which sits directly across from the Castle. The Theatre Royal shows a wide range of live performances including comedy, tragedy, ballet, one-nighters, musicals, theatre, tribute bands, thrillers and the ever-popular annual pantomime! Backstage tours are also available.

**The Old Court** is a hothouse for movies, live music, theatre, dance and exhibitions. The quirky Grade II listed building originally housed Windsor's police station, magistrates' court and fire station from 1907 to 1966.



## MUSEUMS

Housed in the Guildhall, **Windsor & Royal Borough Museum** is bursting with interesting facts and interactive displays on the Royal Borough and its residents, including a model of a Hawker Hurricane, the plane designed by Windsor-born Sir Sydney Camm. Open on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm, guided tours are often available of Windsor Guildhall where portraits of monarchs adorn the walls.

**Eton College Museums** open the doors of three museums: The Natural History Museum, The Museum of Antiquities and The Museum of Eton Life on Sundays (2.30-5pm), which bring alive various aspects of the Eton experience across six centuries.



## FESTIVALS & FAIRS

The **Contemporary Art Fair Windsor** in November gathers over 150 artists, printmakers, photographers, sculptors, ceramicists and galleries from the UK and Europe. It hosts workshops and demonstrations from leading artists and galleries.

**Windsor Festival** is amongst the premier music and arts festivals in the UK. It takes place over two weeks each September and performances are located in some stunning local venues including St George's Chapel and the Waterloo Chamber, Windsor Castle.

**Windsor Fringe** takes place each September/October with a vibrant and eclectic mix of the arts and entertainment.

Also in September is the **Cliveden Literary Festival** which attracts first class speakers and authors.

# Film & TV

You loved the film so now why not visit one of the Royal Borough locations used in the movie?

It is no surprise that this area is frequently used by filmmakers given its proximity to London and with Pinewood and Shepperton Studios just 20 minutes away. Bray is the home of Bray Film Studios, made famous in the 1950s and 1960s by the Hammer House of Horror Productions including Dracula. In 1979 it was where Alien was made.

To take in the main locations, a driving tour followed recommended:

## DRIVING TOUR

Start in **Maidenhead High Street** and **Maidenhead Town Hall** – used as the hospital location in Carry On films from 1963 to 1975.

**Bray village – St Michael's Church** and **The Crown pub** – used in an episode of Inspector Morse.

**Bray High Street** – used in an episode of Midsomer Murders – Bring out Your Dead.

Travel on by coach past Bray Film Studios with commentary about the history of the studios, the films shot there and the plans for the site today.

Swing past **Dorney Lake** to see where George Clooney's The Boys in the Boat was shot and **Royal Windsor Racecourse**, a location used in Suffragette and Midsomer Murders.

Pass **Eton College** used as a location for A Tale of Two Cities, Chariots of Fire, The Fourth Protocol, The Madness of King George, Shakespeare in Love, Casino Royale, My Week with Marilyn.



Dorney Court

Arrive at **Dorney Court** for a private Connoisseur's Tour of the House and adjacent church used for numerous location shoots. The tour can be tailored to focus on the film locations, scenes shot there and the actors who have worked there.

Cruise around **Windsor Great Park** and imagine where Into the Woods, No Time to Die, Bridget Jones's Baby and Bridgerton, amongst many other films, had outdoor locations.

Drive alongside **Ascot Racecourse** where scenes from My Fair Lady (2010) and A View to a Kill were filmed.

## WALKING TOUR

Drop off at Windsor Coach Park, then meet a guide to conduct a walking tour of Windsor and Eton.

*Please see the Supplier Directory for tour guides who can provide the commentary and guides for the coach and walking tour.*



Eton College

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Dorney Court** was used as a location in: The Missionary, Sense & Sensibility, Elizabeth, Sliding Doors, Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, To Kill a King, The Other Boleyn Girl, Cranford, Elizabeth: The Golden Age, The Social Network, Bridgerton.



# Food & Drink Delights

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead is full of exciting places to eat and drink. From Michelin star restaurants such as **The Hind's Head** in Bray to riverside pubs such as **The Boatman** in Windsor. An excellent mix of familiar and independent means that there is a restaurant for everyone to enjoy.

## DINING

Restaurants such as **Côte Brasserie** overlooking the river at Eton, **Gilbey's Bar & Restaurant** with its modern British menu and **Flaming Cow** with its authentic American food, are just some of the many great restaurants in Windsor and can accommodate groups. **Patch on the Plaza** is a novel al fresco bar and restaurant close to Windsor & Eton Central station. Or stop off for an ice cream to end your visit at **Fortescues of Windsor**, a family-run gelato and coffee shop with a royal menu of desserts fit for the King.

On the doorstep of the Castle, **1423 China Kitchen** occupies a historic building with a rich heritage spanning six centuries and offers authentic Chinese cuisine. For an expansive menu of pan-Asian food, try **Banana Tree**, right beside Windsor & Eton station.

For those looking for familiar restaurant names there are plenty on offer; choose from **Browns Brasserie & Bar** beside the Thames to the **Giggling Squid** next to the Theatre Royal, or reliable favourites like **PizzaExpress**, **The Real Greek**, **Ole & Steen** and **Wagamama**.

*See the Supplier Directory for more details of places to eat.*

## DRINKING

Who doesn't want to enjoy a pint of traditional British beer? **Windsor & Eton Brewery** offers tours and beer sampling for groups. Try one of their award-winning beers with a fish 'n' chip lunch or a tailored two-course option such as Cottage Pie. The Brewery has a flagship pub, **The George**, on Eton High Street, which welcomes visitors and locals alike.



## AFTERNOON TEA

Enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea in one of the central hotels such as **The Castle Hotel** and **The Macdonald Windsor**.

If you're visiting The Savill Garden choose from the **Savill Garden Kitchen** or the **Gallery Café** at the Visitor Centre.

Many hotels in the area will offer Afternoon Tea, but a couple of particular note are at **Coworth Park** which serves Old English Afternoon Tea, **Cliveden** which offers an indulgent Champagne Afternoon Tea and **Great Fosters** where afternoon tea is served in the historic Anne Boleyn drawing room.



## DID YOU KNOW?

First mention of 'Eton Mess' as an English dessert was in 1893. The strawberry-and-cream dessert is traditionally served at Eton College on 4 June at the annual cricket match against the pupils of Harrow School.

# Luxury & Unique Experiences

Combine a stay in an elegant hotel with superb shopping, fine dining, excellent evening entertainment and a selection of luxury or unique experiences around the Royal Borough.

## ELITE SPORTS

Guards Polo Club offers a half-day **Polo Masterclass** - A thorough introduction to every aspect of polo, from theory to practice - get up and running and hit a polo ball within one session. Gain an insight into the world of modern polo including its rich history, the fundamentals of polo riding, and a fun and pro-active exercise in polo practice from a sporting perspective. All lessons include access to Guards Polo Club on the day. Available for individuals or groups up to 50.



## EXCLUSIVE COOKERY SCHOOLS

At **Caldesi in Campagna**, Bray a wide range of cookery classes for both individuals and groups of up to 22 have been designed by celebrity TV chef Giancarlo Caldesi. Bespoke experiences can also be arranged including chef demonstrations and wine tastings.

Also in Bray is the **Alain Roux Culinary School** based at the Michelin-starred Waterside Inn. A variety of bespoke, unique cookery classes, courses, demonstrations, and immersive masterclass packages are on offer, which include a fascinating peek behind the scenes, meeting the industrious chefs at work in the main kitchen.

## WATERSPORTS

**Bray Lake Watersports** offers a variety of water sports: stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), windsurfing, kayaking, dinghy sailing, wingsurfing, wingfoiling and open water swimming. The centre welcomes corporate and school groups 7 days a week and offers equipment hire, own equipment launches, open water swimming sessions and tuition.

Against the magical backdrop of Royal Windsor, groups can enjoy guided canoe and kayak tours on the River Thames with **Canoe and Kayak Adventures**. Hiring your own canoes, kayaks and SUP boards and pedal boards is also possible, plus arranging day and overnight camping trips.



## PRIVATE BOATING

The **Boat Hire Company** offers hire between Marlow and Windsor for groups up to 24: step aboard at Bray or Maidenhead onto the motor yacht Fringilla or the Dutch Super Kaagkruiser Larus.

The **Electric Boat Company** maintain and operate a 100% electric fleet of luxury self-drive hire boats uniquely positioned in Marlow, Cliveden and Runnymede, some of the most picturesque reaches of the Thames.





## ADVENTURE EXPERIENCES

For an outdoor challenge at your own pace, explore the streets of Windsor's town centre and unlock a hidden trail by finding clues, solving puzzles and completing tasks, earning points along the way all self-guided through the **Go Quest Adventures** app.

For a woodland adventure on a fun two-wheeler, joining a **Segway Rally** around Bray Lake is an exhilarating experience. Choose from 30 or 60-minute tours navigating the twists and turns of the trails around the picturesque lakeside setting.

**Legoland® Windsor Resort** is a hit with all the family, and especially children up to the age of 12, It combines thrills, shows, attractions and rides set over 150 acres of parkland including a fully LEGO themed hotel on site.

Plus, LEGOLAND® Adventure Golf is the world's first LEGO® themed indoor golf experience 'fore' the whole family – with 4 different LEGO themed course to master



Segway Rally Experience, Bray Lake

## PRIVATE TOUR, WINDSOR CASTLE

After it has closed to the public, groups can take a **Private Guided Tour** of the Castle's State Apartments for a truly unforgettable experience. Expert guides will take groups on a journey through 1,000 years of royal history, and learn how His Majesty and members of the Royal Family use the Castle today.



Adventure Golf, Legoland Windsor Resort

## ESCAPE ROOMS

The **Windsor Escape Experience** is designed and built for originality: these four themed 60-minute challenges involve solving clues, moving through rooms to achieve your objective, but teams must work together to succeed.

At **Escape in 60** three themed 60-minute challenges can be tailored to your group – up to 24 per hour. They are highly interactive and involve: problem solving; instinct; logic; communication; patience; thinking out loud; creativity and above all, teamwork.



Grand Reception Room, Windsor Castle  
Royal Collection Trust/ © His Majesty King Charles III 2024  
Photographer: Peter Smith

## DID YOU KNOW?

VisitWindsor has a dedicated meetings and events portal for clients looking for corporate events and experiences around the Royal Borough. Find it on the [destination website](#).



# River Thames & Boating

Messing about on the River Thames is a wonderfully relaxing way to enjoy the Royal Borough from a different perspective, and can be an excellent complement to a packed itinerary. Choose to let your own captain steer though the picturesque riverside sights and scenery, or skipper your own boat and go as you please.



## CRUISE WITH A CAPTAIN

**French Brothers** is renowned as the major River Thames excursion company at Windsor, and offers scheduled sightseeing trips with full commentary from 40 minutes to 2 hours. Taking in wonderful views of Windsor Castle, Eton College and pretty Datchet, depending on your route, the multi-decked boats can accommodate large groups and offer a range of refreshments on board. Private charters for bespoke groups are also available.

Embark at Maidenhead's Riverside Gardens with the **Windsor & Maidenhead Boat Company** and enjoy an excursion on board the Georgian, including lunch or tea as an individual or small group. Larger groups can enjoy private hire with every trip including a food element, live commentary and the all-important cup of tea or coffee. Depending on the season there are themed cruises e.g. Santa Cruise and corporate party offers.

**Thames Charters** work out of Windsor Racecourse Marina, where classic motor yacht Domani can entertain up to 12 guests with a skipper for a day excursion or transport along the river.

## SELF-SKIPPERED BOATS

**Kris Cruisers** offer a range of holiday cruisers that can be hired sleeping 2-10 people for weekends or weeks. Perfect for an extended river trip at your own pace, you can explore the whole 124-mile length of the River Thames passing through towns such as Hampton Court, Cookham, and Henley.

For a spontaneous hour relaxing on the Thames at Windsor, look no further than **John Logie Motor Boats**: this fleet of motor boats and rowing boats can accommodate up to 10.





# Evening Entertainment

When the day trippers have gone home and the attractions have typically closed for the night, there is still much to entertain visitors staying later and longer.

## SPECIAL BARS

Windsor is a pretty special place for cocktails and cool wine bars like our newest arrival **Incognito Bar**, which defies description; you'll just have to try it! Around for significantly longer is **The Cobbles** at Drury House - Windsor's oldest tearoom and, prior to this, home to the favourite mistress of King Charles II, Nell Gwyn. Drink and dine in rooms steeped in over 400 years of history.

Nearer Maidenhead check out **Norden Farm Centre for the Arts** for craft beers from local brewers such as Rebellion, Loddon and Lovibonds and carefully selected wines. You can choose to take in a show while you're there, or not.



## LATE NIGHTS

The only venue offering live music throughout the week in Windsor is the **Old Ticket Hall** at Windsor & Eton and Riverside Station. Open Wednesday to Sunday, music ranges from acoustic acts to live bands with DJs to follow until 2am.

In **Royal Windsor** after the shops have closed for the day, there is still plenty of entertainment to be enjoyed. Eating and drinking in All Bar One, Bill's, Patch on the Plaza and Cattle Grid is possible till 11pm, but if late night drinking and dancing is on the menu then there is the nightclub Labyrinth Windsor that opens up to 3am.



## BOOK A SHOW

**The Old Court Arts Space**, 15 minutes' walk from town centre, offers a wide range of entertainment, including regular cinema screenings and it's worth checking their frequently updated programme.

**Theatre Royal Windsor** has existed on its current site in the shadow of Windsor Castle since 1815. Today it offers a range of evening shows from Shakespeare to Pantomime, which changes every few weeks. Check the website for what's on.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Groups can enjoy a very special after-hours tour of the State Apartments at Windsor Castle, concluding with a glass of champagne? Perfect pre-dinner entertainment. Please see page 21 for more details.



# Free Things to Do

Visiting on a budget is not a problem in the Royal Borough with plenty of ways to explore and enjoy the area for nothing. Walking tours and trails are a great use of free time and explain much of the area's history.



## WALKWAYS

In Eton there is a specially marked **Eton Walkway** celebrating the small town's rich heritage. It connects 18 points of interest to Eton College on a two-mile circular walk.

**The Queen's Walkway** walking route is a symbolic 6.373km long for the 63 years, 7 months and 3 days of Queen Elizabeth II's reign when she became Britain's longest reigning monarch, and links 63 of Windsor's best attractions, features and views.

A **riverside walk** in the direction of the railway viaduct, just near to Windsor's Alexandra Gardens, brings you to a unique point of interest: a full-size replica World War II aircraft! The **Hawker Hurricane** is a lasting memorial to Windsor resident Sir Sydney Camm CBE FRAeS (1839-1966).



## STAY UNDERCOVER

Attend **Evensong at St George's Chapel**: the service lasts around 45 minutes, sung daily by the Chapel Choir daily at 5.15pm except Wednesdays.

Visit Windsor Guildhall, which houses **Windsor and Royal Borough Museum** or simply stroll to Windsor & Eton Central Station home to **Windsor Royal** - excellent for window shopping inspiration.

## SCULPTURE TRAIL

**The Copper Horse** depicting George III on horseback at the end of the Long Walk in Windsor Great Park is one of the most striking sculptures and can be seen from miles around. The view when you get there is worth the effort.

**The Windsor Lady** is one of the newest, created to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Located in the town's Bachelors Acre, it depicts Her Late Majesty surrounded by six Corgis.

**Sir Nicholas Winton MBE** has a statue on platform 3 of Maidenhead railway station. During the Second World War, Winton devised a programme to transport unaccompanied Jewish children to London. Thanks to him 669 child refugees were rescued.

**Sir Antony Gormley's Edge II** statue was commissioned by Eton College in 2001 and it has been attached high up on Common Lane House since 2002.



Antony Gormley's Edge II



Full-size replica Hawker Hurricane aircraft



# Tours & More

Book a local guide to discover hidden stories: tours can be tailor-made according to client tastes, for example walking tours, visits to museums and galleries including Windsor Castle and escorted coach tours. Alternatively book your clients on an organised local tour. All the guides listed here are Blue Badge Guides who are trained under the auspices of The Institute of Tourist Guiding.

## WALKING TOURS

Join Amanda, or one of her fellow guides from award-winning **Windsor Tourist Guides Ltd**, on a private guided tour of Windsor Castle or an evening guided town walk. All the walks are tailor-made to your group's interests.

Join Tony from **Visions of History** on an escorted coach and walking tour of Windsor and Runnymede and see how he brings history to life. The meadows at Runnymede are the site of the sealing of Magna Carta and now home to monuments and artworks.

Join Debbie from **WE Tours** for a relaxed, informative and fun tour around Windsor and she might just add a touch of drama to your visit!

Enjoy a guided tour of Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel, then explore the beautiful towns of Windsor and Eton nestling close to the walls of Windsor Castle with **Spirit of England**.

Try a film and TV location tour with **Bobbie Blue Badge**. Bobbie mixes performance with her guiding skills to provide entertaining and educational experiences. Choose from a list of ready-made itineraries including her popular 'setjetting' film and TV location tours.



## VEHICLE TOURS

Try a **Windsor Duck Tour**: A unique and fun experience for all the family which combines river and land tour around Windsor and surrounds with entertaining commentary as you go - book early as places are limited!

Enjoy an hour-long hop on, hop off tour aboard a **Golden Tours** open-top bus, with commentary as you go – to see top sights in Windsor and Eton and stop off at the famous Windsor Farm Shop to browse some goodies to take home with you, before hopping back onboard.

**Evan Evans** offer a range of day tours that include a stop in Windsor, plus a dedicated daily full day excursion from London to Windsor to visit the Castle. Plus there is an Express service from London to Legoland Windsor Resort.

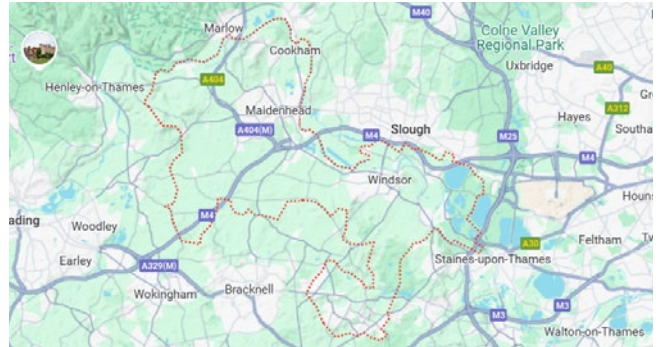




# Find Out More

## GETTING HERE

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead is just 30 miles west of London with Heathrow Airport even closer, just 15 minutes away. Southampton, Luton and Gatwick Airports are within an hour and a half drive. The whole of the Royal Borough is easily accessible via the major motorway networks of the M3, M4, M25 and M40 and is well served by public transport.



## ARRIVING BY RAIL

The Royal Borough's main towns are easily accessible by rail and served by two train operating companies.

	Station			
Rail Operator	Windsor & Eton Riverside*	Windsor Central*	Maidenhead	Ascot
<b>GWR</b>		35 mins from London Paddington (change at Slough)	20-50 mins from London Paddington	
<b>South Western Railway</b>	55 mins from London Waterloo			50 mins from London Waterloo

\*Both stations are situated within a few minutes' walk of Windsor Castle Windsor and the town's other attractions.

## RAIL OPERATORS



Great Western Railway Operates services between London Paddington, Reading and Oxford, as well as destinations including South Wales, the West Country, the Cotswolds. [Here](#) are journey times, train information and group travel offers.



South Western Railway Operates train services from London Waterloo to Windsor and other services including Bournemouth and Poole, Southampton, Portsmouth and Guildford. If you are travelling in a group of between 3 and 9 people [Groupsave](#) offers savings of 34%.

## ARRIVING BY ROAD

M4 Exit Junction 6 for Windsor or junction 8/9 for Maidenhead, M3 Exit junction 3 (Bagshot), M25 Exit junction 13 (Egham), M40 Exit junction 4 (Marlow) or junction 2 (Beaconsfield). Please see map on page 8.

## ARRIVING BY AIR



Information on public transport options for travelling from the airports to Windsor are available [here](#)



## COACH PARKING

**Windsor Coach Park (WCP)**, Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HY - Charges apply Monday - Sunday between 9am-9pm (including Bank Holidays).

**Cost:** Up to 4 hours – £26.00 or pre-paid £22.00,  
4 hours to 10 hours – £35.00 or pre-paid £30.00.

**Coach Park permits (Scratch cards)** - Please complete the [online form](#). Allow 10 working days to process. Tickets come in the form of a scratch card, which will need to be validated by scratching off the relevant boxes. They may be used for any date but can only be used once. It is not possible to pre-book a space and the purchase of an advance ticket does not guarantee a space.

Payment for parking can be made on the day by cash/ card or RingGo but this will be at the full rate. Please ensure payment is made before you leave the car park. This is a pay and display surface parking area for coaches only with 74 spaces. Entry is allowed up to 6.30pm but exit is allowed at any time. The car park is regularly patrolled until 9.30pm.

**Riverside Car Park, Maidenhead**, Jenner's Riverside Gardens, Raymead Road, Maidenhead SL6 8NP - Coaches £15.00. Coaches must ring 01628 621721 to book a space. This is a pay and display car park. Please display ticket to avoid a fixed penalty (please pay car park attendant or in café). Car park closes half an hour after sunset.



## ARRIVING BY EXPRESS COACH SERVICES


Green Line 702: hourly bus service from London Victoria Coach Station to Windsor and LEGOLAND,  
Green Line 703: service from Heathrow Terminal 5 to Windsor, LEGOLAND and Bracknell.

[Here](#) are timetables and route maps.

More detailed and the most up-to-date information can be found [here](#).





 [www.windsor.gov.uk](http://www.windsor.gov.uk)

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