

Spend the afternoon in Royal Windsor & Eton



How long do I need? Half a day

Where is it? Windsor & Eton

Highlights

The oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world has made Royal Windsor irresistibly unique. Her Majesty the Queen's 1000-year-old residence is an awesome presence, dominating the town as it stands guard over a beautiful stretch of the River Thames. Like the castle, which is a working royal palace, the town's regal haunts are very much lived in and alive. The 2.2 mile Long Walk, which runs straight as an arrow from the castle gates, is a fantastic facility for scenic parkland picnics and walks. Queen Victoria's royal station, opened over 100 years ago, is the centrepiece of Windsor Royal Shopping – one of several high-class shopping areas in the town. The River Thames, the monarch's former highway, is now a scenic route for pleasure craft and passenger boat rides. The highlights here are all easy to reach on foot. Just a few minutes' stroll from the castle, a bridge takes you over the river to picturesque Eton where the famous college is frequently open for tours.

Start your visit with lunch: with cafés, pubs and restaurants of every kind, and 16 different types of cuisine to choose from, lunchtime options are readily visible in every part of the town. Historic eating houses include the 17th-century Drury House Restaurant in cobbled Church Street and the Royal Oak, in the shadow of the castle, with its summer terrace for castle views. Contemporary choices include lots of quality, independent establishments as well as favourites such as Browns, Pizza Express and Wagamama and eateries inspired by well know names like Carluccio's and Anthony Worrall Thompson's Windsor Grill.

Choose from these highlights to make the most of this historic town:

[Windsor Castle](#)

Dating back to the 1070s, 'the greatest castle in the world' is awesome from the outside and breathtaking within. Its 26 acre site houses the royal palace, a magnificent chapel and the homes and workplaces of a whole community of people who serve the castle. Visitors to the castle can enjoy the magnificent State Apartments, hung with famous paintings from the Royal Collection, and take a guided tour of the Great Kitchen – a superb survival from the 13th century – which is still used to prepare State Banquets. St George's Chapel, one of the most beautiful church buildings in England, is another highlight. So too is Queen Mary's Dolls' House, which is complete with electric lighting, hot and cold running water and even flushing lavatories. Last admission to the castle is at 16.00 (March-October, or 15:00 (November-February)). Ticket prices include a two-hour audio tour and 30-minute guided tours of the Castle Precincts, available at regular intervals throughout the day. Tickets can be bought in advance from the Castle's visitor centre, [online](#) from the Royal Collection ticket office, or by calling +44 (0)20 7766 7304.

Windsor Castle

Windsor Castle, Windsor, SL4 1NJ

Opening hours: See website for details

Costs: Admission costs apply – see website or call for details

Tel: +44 (0)20 77667304

Web: <http://www.royalcollection.org.uk>

Relax on a river trip

The River Thames is Windsor's oldest highway and still provides the most stylish viewpoint for the town. You many already have taken a boat to reach the rowing at Dorney Lake. If not, take advantage of [French Brothers'](#) (tel: +44 (0)1753 851900) 40-minute or two-hour luxury passenger boat trips from Windsor Promenade, just ten minutes' walk from the Castle. Take the 40-minute trip to cruise upstream to Boveney Lock, returning with classic views of the Castle and Eton College. The two-hour trip cruises upstream as far as Monkey Island, allowing time for a drink from the bar with light refreshments on board. Tickets include information about sights and scenery along the route.

French Brothers

The Clewer Boathouse, Clewer Court Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5JH

Opening hours: February to December – see website or call for trip details

Costs: Costs vary - see website or call for details

Tel: +44 (0)1753 851900

Web: www.boat-trips.co.uk

Time to shop

Windsor and Eton boast 60 Royal Warrant holders, so the seal of approval is guaranteed. Shop in the traffic-free triangle of Peascod Street, King Edward Court and [Windsor Royal Shopping](#) for a good mix of famous names and high street favourites plus designer and contemporary brands and a variety of interesting, "one off" stores. Cross the bridge to Eton High Street, where many shops occupy premises dating back to medieval

times. Browse here for art and antiques, gifts, clocks and books, tailoring, couture, furnishings and fine food.

The Eton College tour

Eton College was founded in 1440 to provide free education for 70 poor scholars who would then go on to further their education at King's College, Cambridge. Now one of the best known schools in the world, its old boys include the Princes William and Harry – and 19 prime ministers. Guided tours of the college last approximately an hour, visiting the Cloisters, the superb 15th-century Chapel, the oldest classroom (complete with centuries of graffiti) and the Museum of Eton Life housed in the vaulted undercroft of the original dining hall.

Eton College

Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6DW

Opening hours: Varied opening times - see website or call for details

Costs: Admission costs apply – see website or call for details

Tel: +44 (0)1753 671000

Web: <http://www.etoncollege.com>

Tour the town

Enjoy a regal view from a horse-drawn carriage. Licensed carriages leave from the High Street taxi rank outside the castle walls for regular 30-minute tours through the town and down the famous Long Walk to the Home Park. A one-hour tour goes further into the Great Park, via the deer park.

Take a [City Sightseeing](#) open top double-decker bus tour of Windsor & Eton. The circular tour route takes 45 minutes, with tickets allowing for hop-on-hop-off stops at 11 points of interest along the route.

Royal Windsor Racecourse

Linked to Eton Dorney Rowing Centre by a bridge across the river, Royal Windsor Racecourse serves as a hub for transport to the Olympic and Paralympic Rowing events. The course is popular for its evening meetings, for which French Brothers (tel: +44 (0)1753 851900) provide a boat service from Windsor Promenade. Check the website for details of evening meetings taking place in 2012.

Royal Windsor Racecourse

Maidenhead Road, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 5JJ

Opening hours: Fixtures all year round

Costs: Costs depend on the race – see [website](#) to book online or call for details

Tel: +44 (0)1753 498445

Web: <http://www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk>

More visitor information

Visit www.windsor.gov.uk or call in at The Royal Windsor Information Centre, Old Booking Hall, Windsor Royal Station, Thames Street, Windsor SL4 1PJ. Tel: +44 (0) 1753 743900. Open: all year, daily.