



Windsor Castle and Trip on River Thames

Friday, 16th September 2022



Price £75 to include Coach, a 2-hour Thames River Cruise with a Ploughman's Lunch served onboard and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Exhibition at Windsor Castle

We start our visit with a 2-hour cruise on the River Thames, which gives excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College. After passing Windsor Racecourse, the boat goes through Boveney Lock and past Sutherland Grange, The Willows and Bray Film Studios then to Monkey Island where it turns for the journey back to Windsor. After enjoying the views from the upper deck, we will move to the comfortable salon where our Ploughman's Lunch will be served, including a slice of cake and tea or coffee.

After the cruise we will take a 10-minute walk to Windsor Castle where our afternoon visit starts with a Special Group Talk on the Great Fire in 1992. We follow this with a self-guided tour of the State Apartments, Platinum Jubilee Exhibition, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St. George's Chapel.

Windsor Castle is the oldest (11th century) and largest occupied castle in the world and was founded by William the Conqueror. It has been the home of 39 monarchs and now it is the home of the Queen who spends most of her time there.

We will be spending about three hours at Windsor Castle and we will have a Special Group Talk (refreshments included) about the devastating Great Fire which broke out in 1992 and made headlines around the world. We will hear the dramatic story of the battle to stop the flames and save works of art from the Royal Collection and the skilled restoration works. This was a huge project and some parts were painstakingly returned to their original appearance whilst other interiors were rebuilt to new designs.

We can then enjoy a self-guided tour of the State Apartments with a multimedia guide, including areas transformed by the award-winning restoration work. You can go at your own pace and choose what you would particularly like to see.

The Platinum Jubilee Exhibition currently on display commemorates Her Majesty's Coronation at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953, featuring the Coronation Dress and Robe of Estate worn by The Queen that day and magnificent jewels and is included in your ticket to Windsor Castle.

In addition, you can visit Queen Mary's Dolls' House which was built between 1921 and 1924 by the leading British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. It is fully furnished and over 1,500 artists, craftsmen and manufacturers of the early twentieth century contributed to give a picture of life below and upstairs. It even includes a fully stocked wine cellar and a garden created by Gertrude Jekyll.

You may have time to visit St George's Chapel within the grounds of Windsor Castle. This is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in England. Construction of the present Chapel began in 1475 under the reign of Edward IV. It has been the location of many royal weddings including The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, and HRH Princess Eugenie and Mr Jack Brooksbank. The Chapel is also the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, the senior order of British Chivalry established in 1348 by Edward III. King George VI, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret are all buried there.

There will be a 10-minute walk to the coach and we will aim to leave Windsor about 4.30pm.

Instructions – please read carefully

To join this trip please complete the form below and send with your cheque payable to Guildford Area U3A (and a SAE **ONLY** if you do not have an email address) to **Ann Elms, High Hedges, Sand Barns Lane, Sand, Woking, GU23 7BT**. Please ensure your email address and telephone numbers are completed to enable us to confirm whether or not there is a place available or to contact you with a query. We aim only to send postal confirmation if you do not have an email address, in which case please then send a SAE.

Please take great care to complete your pickup point and the names of all other parties booked by you. All trips are only available to fully paid-up Guildford U3A members (for insurance purposes) and membership numbers must be given. Refunds cannot be given unless a replacement can be found.

Contact if needed: Ann Elms, annelms1@hotmail.com, Landline: 01483 222913 or Mobile: 07710 746236.

Pick up points: A Artington Park & Ride 9.15am, B Nightingale Rd/London Rd bus shelter 9.20am, C Elgin Gardens bus shelter (near Burchatts Farm) 9.25am, D bus shelter opposite BP garage Burpham 9.30am. Please check any parking restrictions at your chosen pick-up point.

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Name		Home No.		Your Guildford U3A Membership No.	
		Mob No.			
Others booked by you on the visit				Their Guildford U3A Membership No.	
Special dietary requirements, eg vegetarian		<i>Ploughman's Lunch being served</i>			
Email address					
Postal address					
Date	Outing	Cost	No. of places	Cheque total	Coach pickup times
Friday 16 September 2022	Windsor Castle and River Thames cruise with Ploughman's Lunch	£75			A 9.15 B 9.20 C 9.25 D 9.30