

History & Heritage

Three day trip from Windsor to Oxford and Buckinghamshire

Some of the most exquisite and intriguing historic houses in England are scattered across the South East. From the gigantic baroque pile of Blenheim Palace to the Renaissance-style chateau of Waddesdon manor, the region has many stately homes steeped in rich social and architectural history. The South East of England is also home to some 30 castles, including one of the most famous castles in England - Windsor Castle.

Day 1: Windsor



Only 25 miles (40min) west of London, [Windsor](#) thrives on its royal patronage, rich cultural heritage and stunning architecture. Book a walking tour with professional [Blue Badge Guides](#), starting at the award-winning Royal Windsor Information Centre; or a one hour open top bus tour.

Time your visit so that you can catch the Changing of the Guard Ceremony of [Windsor Castle](#), which takes place in Lower Ward at 11am.

Choose one of the numerous historic pubs and restaurants of Thames Street and High Street for your lunch.

In the afternoon, discover the magnificent [Windsor Castle](#) built by William the Conqueror, with an inclusive 1½ hour audio guide and a 30min free tour of the precincts with a Windsor Castle warden. Special tours are also available for pre-booked groups. Make sure you visit the beautiful [St George's Chapel](#) in the Castle grounds, in which 10 monarchs are buried.

Before leaving the royal city, stop at Eton College, one of the oldest and most famous schools in England. (*Owing to building work, Eton College cannot welcome visitors until autumn 2015*).

There is a wide range of places to stay in Windsor and the surrounding areas. For more information, please visit www.windsor.gov.uk/accommodation.

You can also go directly to [Hartwell House & Spa](#), situated 50min north of Windsor in the Vale of Aylesbury. Relax in the spa, enjoy the finest of cuisine served in elegant dining rooms, and stay overnight in an exquisite furnishing room.

Day 2: Oxford, the City of Dreaming Spires



One hour drive from Windsor, [Oxford](#) is a picture-perfect historic site, renowned for its ancient University. Take a 2 hour tour through the City of Dreaming Spires in the capable hands of a [Blue Badge Guide](#).

Explore the historic quadrangles and the Divinity school of [Bodleian Library](#) with a 40min audio guide. Or decide to see the exhibits at [Ashmolean Museum](#), Britain's oldest museum. The admission is free for everyone.

At lunch time, head for the wonderful [Oxford Covered Market](#) of the 1770's. Try the delicious fresh Pieminister pie, Ben's Cookies or Moo-Moo's milkshakes.

Spend the whole afternoon at [Blenheim Palace](#), only 20min drive of Oxford. Visit its magnificent State Rooms, which house one of the finest collections in Europe. Free English-speaking guided tours are available to all individual and group visitors and run every 20 to 30 minutes throughout the day. Explore over 2,000 acres of beautiful 'Capability Brown' parkland, lakes, fountains and formal gardens surrounding the Palace.

From cottages, to B&B and 5 star-hotels, Oxford and Oxfordshire have a huge range of nice places to stay for any budget.

For more information, please visit www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/accommodation/.



Day 3: Waddesdon Manor and Hartwell House



Spend the morning at [Waddesdon Manor](#), a Renaissance-style chateau, located 45min away from Oxford. Admire one of the finest collections of French 18th Century decorative arts in the world and explore its Victorian garden, considered to be one of the finest in Britain. Pre-book your visit which includes the aviary, woodland, wine cellars, shops and restaurants.

Before your trip, have a look at the full programme of events organised throughout the year.

Have your lunch at the manor restaurant which was once the old kitchen and servants' hall.

Only 15min drive from Waddesdon Manor in the Vale of Aylesbury, [Hartwell House](#) was once the house of Louis XVIII, exiled King of France. Enjoy an afternoon tea with scones and homemade cakes and pastries, all served in the Library once the salon of King Louis XVIII, overlooking manicured lawns and the superb gardens.

Admire the 50 miles (1hr15) of rich agricultural Buckinghamshire countryside on your way back to London.



If you need any further information, please visit www.visitsoutheastengland.com/.