



Winchester, Ancient Capital of England

Historic Winchester is one of the gems of southern England.

This charming and ancient city was the medieval capital of Britain. It was from here that Saxon (730-1066) kings ruled over the Kingdom of Wessex, and the early Norman kings used it as their primary stronghold to govern England. Later the city became an important religious centre, home to the powerful Bishop of Winchester and as the revered pilgrimage site of the bones of Saint Swithun. Remnants of the historical importance of Winchester are found throughout the city.

Winchester Military Quarter

Average visit time: 2 – 4 hours

Times: See website

Visit the centre of Winchester's military history. Located within the old Peninsular Barracks, this stunning Victorian complex exhibits 6 unique museums, each with their own story to tell. These include:

- The Museum of The King's Royal Hussars
- The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum
- The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum
- The Rifles Regimental Museum
- The Gurkha Museum
- The Adjutant General's Corps Museum



Winchester Military Quarter

Depending on when you are planning to visit, each museum hosts its own events programme which often includes lectures and guest speakers, children's activity days, art and craft activities and workshops. Be sure to check Winchester Military Quarter's website ahead of your travels to find out what's on. Whilst on your visit, don't forget to have a stroll around the site's stunning gardens.



Wichester September 8 - 11 2023

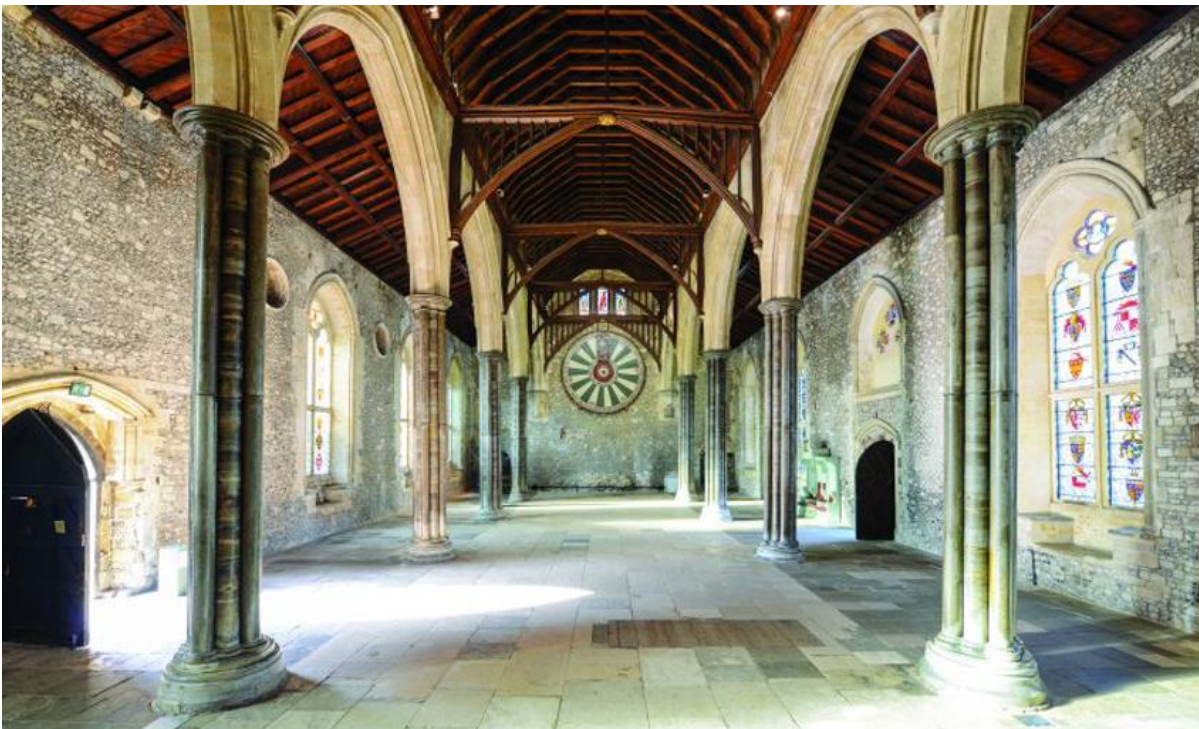
The Great Hall

Average visit time: 1½ – 3 hours

Times: Open daily from 10am – 5pm*

*Due to private functions, there are times when the hall may be closed. Please check The Great Hall's website before planning your trip!

If history is your thing, Winchester is the place to be. Full to the brim with historic treasures, it really is a historian's paradise. One of the most popular historical attractions the city has to offer is The Great Hall, home to one of the greatest symbols of medieval mythology – King Arthur's Round Table.



The Great Hall

The Great Hall is said to be one of the finest surviving examples of a 13th-century aisled hall. It was once part of Winchester Castle, built for William the Conqueror soon after his victory at the Battle of Hastings. Since then, hundreds of years of history has unfolded within the walls of this magnificent hall. Stroll through Queen Eleanor's Garden, discover the secret passages that were created to surprise attacking enemies and meet the heroes and villains of the Great Hall in the Long Gallery.

Visit the Winchester Cathedral

Average visit time: 1½ – 3 hours

Times: Winchester Cathedral is open all year, though is occasionally closed to the public for special services and events. All temporary closures are listed on the [Cathedral](#) website.

For many, the highlight of their visit to Winchester is the city's stunning 11th-century Cathedral located in the heart of the city. Within the walls of this grand building, you will find an array of 12th-century paintings and art pieces as well as fascinating medieval carvings. Take time to wander around the beautiful cathedral grounds, where you will be able to find Jane Austen's grave.



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Winchester Cathedral

Winchester City Mill

Location: Bridge Street, SO23 9BH

Average visit time: 1½ – 3 hours

Opening times: [Visit the Winchester City Mill website.](#)

With over 1000 years of history, this National Trust treasure is a rare example of a surviving urban working corn mill. Uncover a millennium of milling history, find out about the rich wildlife that inhabits the area and catch a glimpse of the CCTV footage that shows the mill's resident otters! With so much to see, do and discover, this is a popular attraction amongst visitors of all ages.

If you visit on a Saturday or Sunday throughout the year, or on a Wednesday from April through to October, you will be able to watch a flour milling demonstration.

City walks

Average visit time: 1-1½ hours

Grab some fresh air, stretch your legs and absorb all of the beautiful sites that the city has to offer by picking up one of Winchester Tourism Information Centre's many free self-guided trails to amble along at your own pace. You can either drop into the Winchester TIC on your visit, or [download a copy online](#).

Depending on what it is you would like to see and how far you would like to walk, there are a range of trails to suit your individual interests. The **City Walk** is a great place to start if you want to fully immerse yourself into Winchester city life whilst following the footsteps of King Alfred himself.

The beauty of this walk is that it is divided into three loops, so you can choose how much of the walk you'd like to do. Each loop is around 1 mile and takes approximately 1 – 1.5 hours.

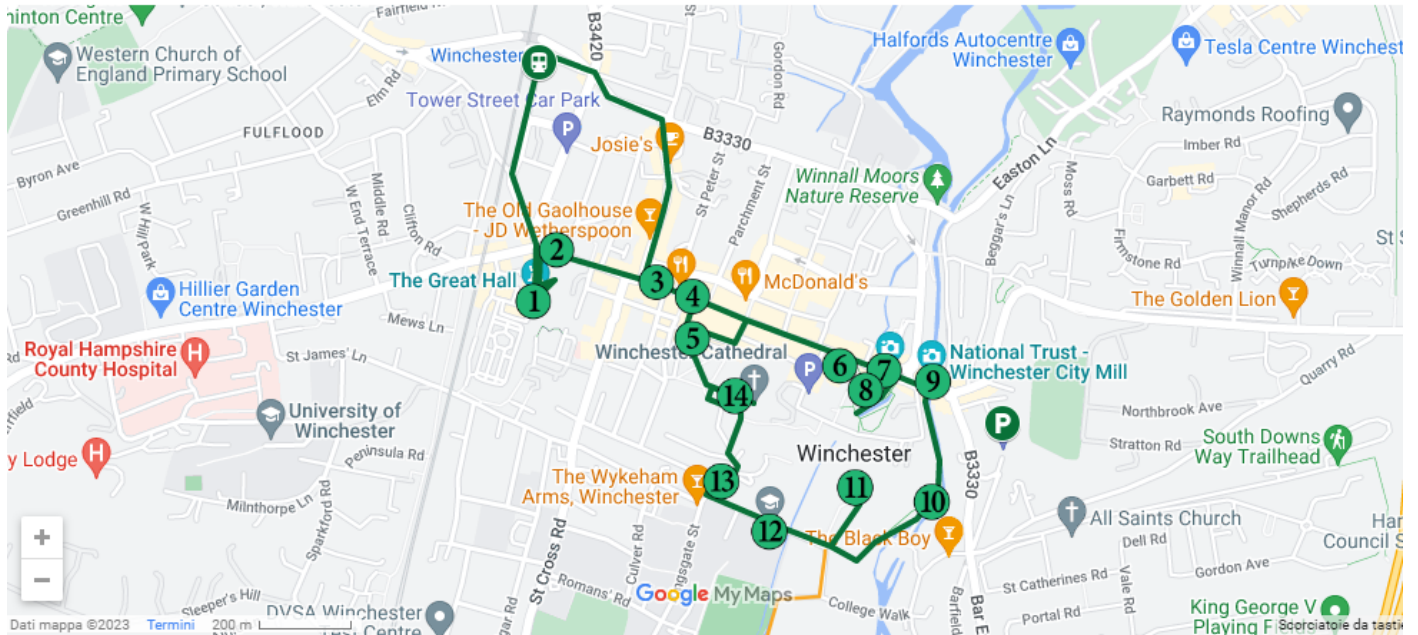
Do not miss, **Winchester Hightsteet** – The bustling shopping street Winchester, lined with traditional and characterful buildings.



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Priory Gate and Kings Gate – A pair of gateways, through the city walls (King's Gate) and the Cathedral walls (Priory Gate) surrounded by some of the most delightful buildings in Winchester.

Below is an interactive map displaying a suggested tour of Winchester, which also details the highlights of the city.



Attrazioni del tour: 1) The Great Hall 2) Westgate 3) The High Street 4) Buttercross Monument 5) Winchester City Museum 6) The Guildhall 7) Statue of King Alfred the Great 8) Abbey Gardens 9) City Mill 10) Percorso Weirs 11) Castello di Wolvesey 12) Winchester College 13) Cancellone del Priorato 14) Cattedrale di Winchester

Salisbury

The cathedral city of Salisbury is steeped in history and is one of the finest tourist destinations in Wiltshire. The city retains much of its medieval centre, with a delightful market square and traditional shopping streets, which lead to the magnificent cathedral. Salisbury cathedral is visually stunning, the colossal spire stands at 123m, while the front façade is ornately carved. Housed in the cathedral is the world's oldest clock and the Magna Carta, an ancient (1215) charter that details the power (and limits) of the King. Salisbury is a calm and peaceful city, which reflects the rural nature of the region. There are scenic footpaths across the meadows to Harnham, there are the ruins of Old Sarum high above the city or the delightful park (known as Cathedral Close) that surrounds the cathedral.

Highlights of Salisbury



Salisbury Cathedral - Arguably England's finest cathedral, containing Britain's most important document (the Magna Carta) and the world's oldest working mechanical clock.

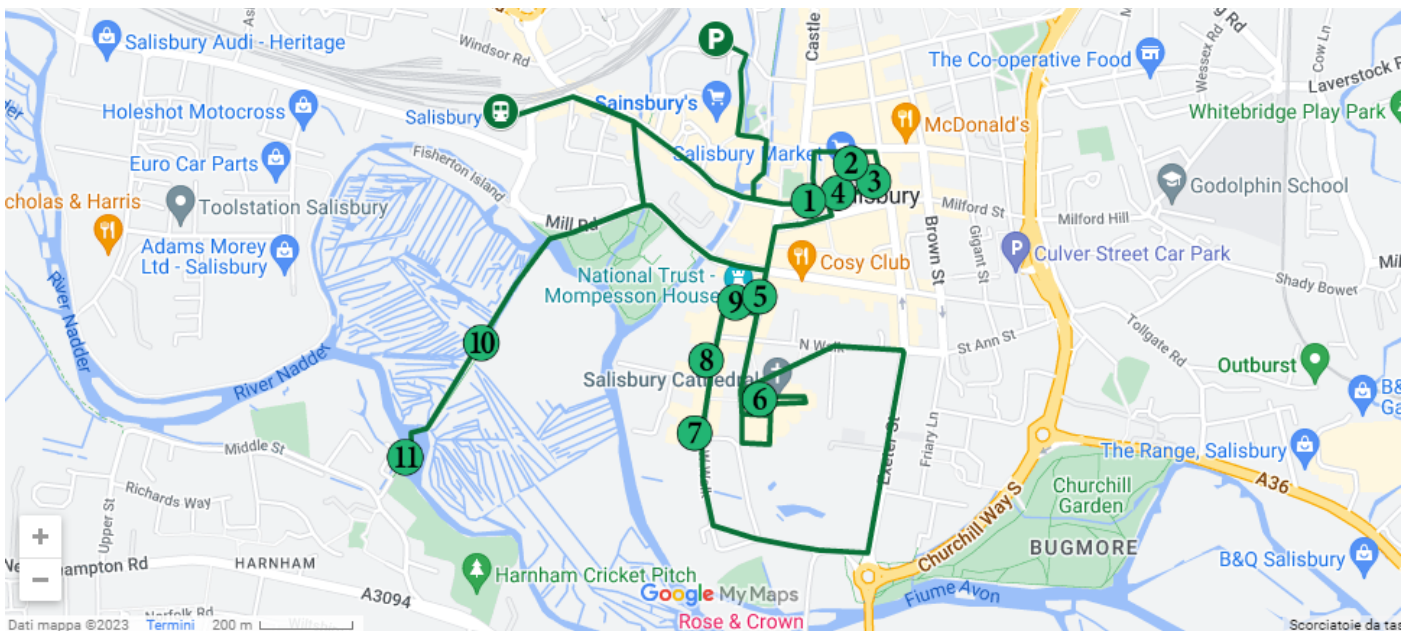
The Town Path- A delightful footpath that crosses the river meadows and provides the finest views of the cathedral, and ends at the delightful Old Mill pub



Butcher Row -The most characterful shopping street of Salisbury, historically the street where butchers were based, with the Guildhall at one end and the Poultry Cross at the other

The compact city centre can be easily explored in a few hours of sightseeing. The majority of the time will be spent in the city centre and the cathedral complex, which is just to the south of the city centre.

Below is an interactive map displaying a suggested tour of Salisbury, which also details the highlights of the city.



Attrazioni di Salisbury: 1) Poultry Cross 2) Market Square 3) The Guildhall (municipio) 4) Butcher Row 5) High Street Gate 6) Cattedrale di Salisbury 7) Salisbury Museum 8) Arundell House 9) Mompesson House 10) Town Path 11) The Old Mill Pub



Stonehenge

Stonehenge would need no introduction as it is probably the most famous prehistoric monument in the world. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site along with Avebury and other similar complexes in the region, it has entered the collective imagination for decades.



As its name suggests, this is a so-called henge, i.e. a more or less circular land surrounded by a ditch and/or an embankment, which contains structures such as standing stones and stone circles. The oldest part of Stonehenge has been dated to around 3000 BC, to which elements from later periods have been added.

Of course, the purpose of its construction still remains a mystery. The monument is surrounded by numerous barrows, burial mounds scattered in the surrounding area, suggesting that the area is a giant necropolis. Other hypotheses suggest that Stonehenge was an astronomical calendar. A further problem concerns the transportation of its stones, which originated from areas many kilometres away (a seemingly impossible task for primitive men). All these mysteries have led to Stonehenge being associated with various myths and legends, from Druids to UFOs, even making it a symbol of New Age culture.

However, this is one of Britain's most extraordinary historical sites and is a must-see for anyone. Also explore the museum inside the visitor centre, which displays hundreds of artefacts found at local prehistoric sites and has an educational area for children. Then we also recommend a trip to Woodhenge, another complex of wooden piles located about 3 km to the north-east.