

# COUNTRYSIDE, PARKS AND GARDENS



The phrase 'England's green and pleasant land' could have been written for the beautiful countryside surrounding the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. With more than 1,000 acres of National Trust land and 4,800 acres of Crown Estate there is so much to explore. Enjoy the seasons from the daffodils and bluebells at Dorney Court in springtime and the abundance of summer flowers at Cliveden, to the flaming autumn colours in The Savill Garden.

#### Day 1 AM:

Start the day with a visit to **The Savill Garden**, described as Britain's first ornamental garden, in the heart of Windsor Great Park.

Commissioned by George V, the garden has many Royal connections such as the Golden Jubilee Garden and the Rose Garden opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 2010. With seasonal displays in beautifully themed landscaped areas, groups can wander its paths and gaze at the magnificent trees, flowers and plants.





## Lunch Stop

The Savill Garden Kitchen is perfect for a lunch stop. Open throughout the day, The Savill Garden serves breakfast, soups and salads, as well as hot lunches, desserts and Sunday roasts. Group discounts are available for a minimum of ten and booked through the Group Booking Co-ordinator on 0845 603 6228.

- 01 Copper Horse
  02 The Savill Garden
  03 The Savill Garden Kitchen
- 04 Cliveden National Trust 05 Steam boat, French Brothers 06 The Boatman, Windson

#### Day 1 PM:

After lunch choose one of the many walks in Windsor Great Park starting from The Savill Garden:

Walk to the Copper Horse (3.5 miles). Walk to the top of the Long Walk and the Copper Horse with impressive views of Windsor Castle.

Walk to the Valley Gardens (1.7 miles). Walk to the northern shores of Virginia Water and the picturesque Valley Gardens - with 250 acres of landscaped blooms and twisting woodland trails.

A Lakeside walk to and around Virginia Water (5.1 miles). Experience the impressive heights of the Cascade to the ancient Leptis Magna ruins.

If this sounds too energetic, book **The Savill Garden & Royal Heritage Coach Tour** (1-1.5 hours).

Be fully immersed in 1000 years of Royal History with an escorted coach tour of Windsor Great Park, personally guided by one of The Crown Estates dedicated team. Sights include: Coronation Groves, The Deer Park, Royal Equestrian Statues (including the Golden Jubilee Statue of Queen Elizabeth II on horseback), The Guards Polo Club, The Royal School, The Estate Village and disembark at the top of the iconic Long Walk, to take a photo towards Windsor Castle. Available: Apr-Sep, Mon-Fri. Min 20/Max 55.





## Day 2 AM: Time to explore the beautiful gardens and walks outside Windsor.

Travel to **Dorney Court** situated just 13 minutes from Windsor. Combine a visit to this beautiful Tudor Manor House which has been the home to the same family for 500 years with the surrounding mature parkland and gardens including the English Rose Garden and the Dell with its sumptuous array of daffodils, bluebells and snowdrops in the spring.

Or, enjoy the beautiful views and follow miles of woodland paths at **Cliveden National Trust**. There is a multitude of experiences from the Long Garden with its floral displays to the tranquil and relaxing Water Garden and the Rose Garden with more than 900 different roses to admire. Cliveden House is now a hotel, but house tours may also be available.

#### Day 2 PM:

Combine a walk along the Thames Path National Trail at nearby Cookham with a visit to **The Stanley Spencer Gallery**. Or, head back to Windsor for lunch, a walk along the riverside and a relaxing boat trip.

#### Cookham

There are three easy-going routes around the village and along parts of the Thames.

- The Village Route (1.5 miles) The majority of the route is flat, and the surface is mainly either grass or tarmac with several bridges and benches. Follow the Thames, go through the churchyard to the famous 11th century Church of Holy Trinity. Continue through the village past the Stanley Spencer Gallery, once a Methodist chapel. The village is now well-known for its variety of restaurants and for its interesting and high-quality retail shops
- Large Circular Route (4.7 miles) Starting from Cookham Moor, walk along the open riverside, with the riverbank houses and marina of Bourne End to the right, and Cock Marsh to the left.
- Lock Route (+1.5 miles) The previous routes can be extended with a walk to Cookham Lock.

A map and details of the routes are available at visitthames.co.uk/dbimgs/cookhamwalks08.pdf.

#### Windsor and the River Thames

The Thames is a large part of the landscape, with over 20 miles of riverside. Enjoy a riverside stroll along the **River Thames** and **Thames Path National Trail** in Windsor and Eton starting from Windsor & Eton Riverside station.



Before experiencing the river, stop for lunch by the riverside at The Boatman pub in Windsor, where groups can enjoy traditional British pub food. boatmanwindsor.com Or try a lunch cruise with French Brothers from Runnymede through the 'back garden' of Windsor Castle with views of

the Castle, Royal Farm and Queen Adelaide's Cottage and visit **Runnymede National Trust** with its countryside and memorials.

### Accommodation

#### In Windsor

**Macdonald Windsor** – Two minutes' walk from Windsor Castle. This 120-bedroom hotel is ideally located opposite the Guildhall and Windsor Castle.

#### Nearby

**De Vere Beaumont Estate**, An 18th-century mansion set in 40 acres of parkland grounds.

**Cliveden House** – Historic hotel set on the 376-acre Cliveden National Trust estate, clivedenhouse.co.uk

#### **Coach Parking**

Available on site at Dorney Court, Cliveden National Trust and The Savill Garden.

**Cookham** – Coach drop off on Sutton Road outside the Galley. Coach parking available at **Riverside Car Park**, Maidenhead SL6 8NP.

Windsor - Coach Park, Alma Road, Windsor SL4 3HY. Pay and display parking area for coaches only with 74 spaces.

#### Distances are from Windsor:

The Savill Garden 5.5 miles. Dorney Court is 6.2 miles. Cliveden National Trust 9.2 miles. Cookham 9.4 miles. Runnymede 4.2 miles.

