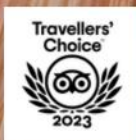




Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral

A Guide for Groups



UKINBOUND
THE VOICE OF INBOUND TOURISM



Discover

Explore

Cherish...

...A Place of Welcome, Beauty and Holiness

UNESCO World Heritage Site, Seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mother Church of the Anglican Communion.

Canterbury Cathedral has a tradition of welcome that reaches back to the days of medieval pilgrimage. We continue that tradition today and warmly invite you to share with us the beauty of one of the great holy places of Christendom.



For more information visit: www.canterbury-cathedral.org

History of Canterbury Cathedral

- 597AD St Augustine arrives in England, converts king Aethelbert and founds his Cathedra
- 1170 Archbishop Thomas Becket is murdered in the Cathedral. Tales of miracles associated with his body make Canterbury a popular place of pilgrimage.



- 1376 Edward of Woodstock, the Black Prince is buried in the Cathedral
- 1413 King Henry IV is buried in the Cathedral
- 1538-1540 King Henry VIII strips Becket's shrine of its treasures, carried away in two coffers and 26 carts. The monastery is dissolved.



- 1640s Puritans damage the Cathedral
- 1940s Survives bombing during WW2, the Library is damaged but later rebuilt.

Thinking of Bringing a Group to Canterbury Cathedral?

With a host of cafes, shops and restaurants, Canterbury makes a great day out, with easy access by road and just 55 mins from central London by train. Bringing a group to Canterbury Cathedral allows everyone to share in the experience of discovering this unique building together. Groups can tailor their visits to their own requirements, from 'Entrance Only' visits through to private evening guided tours, and can combine any elements to create their perfect visit.

Good to Know...

Group Visits must be pre-booked.

Call 01227 762862 Mon-Fri

Entrance Charges Apply-
group discount for groups of 10+ and additional costs for guided tours, talks and catering.



Promotional materials and images available on request.

To discuss any requirements contact the Groups Sales Manager:

melodie.robson@canterbury-cathedral.org



On the Day of Your Visit...

When you arrive at the Cathedral the Group Leader should enter the Visitor Centre on the Buttermarket to confirm final numbers and pay for the group if you have not pre-paid. The group should wait outside. You will then be directed into the Precincts.

Please note that the main toilet facilities are located on the south-east side of the Precincts.

There are no cloakroom facilities at the Cathedral. Should you have any questions or need any assistance during your visit, our helpful staff are clearly identified by their sashes.

Coach Drop Off and Parking

The coach drop off point is located in St George's Lane, in front of Whitefriars Shopping Centre and approximately 400 metres from the Cathedral. Coach drop offs need to be pre-booked. Call 01227 475 202

There is no parking at the Cathedral. Canterbury Coach Park is a 10 minute riverside walk from the city centre and has good facilities. Open 24 hours per day. Charges apply.

Address: Kingsmead Road CT1 1BW

Types of Visit...General Entrance

General entrance tickets allow your group to uncover 1400 years of history at Canterbury Cathedral and so much more, giving access to the Precincts, Great Cloister, Chapter House, Cathedral Gardens, Visitor Centre and any exhibitions held at the time of visiting. Visitors are given a Welcome leaflet on arrival, available in a number of languages, with a map and basic Cathedral information.

Guided Tours

Your group can get added insight to the Cathedral's history on a guided tour led by our wonderful Cathedral-accredited tour guides. Pre-booked tours for groups in a variety of languages can be arranged Mon-Sat from 09.30- 15.00 hrs. Tours last approx. 60-75 mins and can be tailored to your requirements.

Enhance your group's visit by including:

Multi-Media Guide

Enjoy your visit, your way, with our new Multi-Media guides which are available to pre-book for your groups (subject to availability).

Available in multiple languages, our **Cathedral film** provides a wonderful introduction to life at the Cathedral and sets the scene before your visit.

Guide Books

Guide books in a number of languages are available for sale from our Gift Shop

The 'Inside Story' Guided Tour

Our original guided tour-discover the Cathedral's history through its soaring architecture, glorious spaces and the people who created it on our ever-popular 'Inside Story' guided tour.

Suggested Day Visit Itinerary

On arrival at Canterbury Cathedral meet your tour guide and enjoy an 'Inside Story' guided tour-lasting 75 mins.

End your tour with coffee and Danish pastries.

Add insight by arranging a private visit to our Archives and Medieval Library lasting 60 mins.

Include free time to explore our Cathedral Gardens, Visitor Centre exhibitions and Shop-approx 60 mins.



Guided Tour 'A Walk with British Royalty'

This very special tour tells stories of royalty at the Cathedral through the ages.

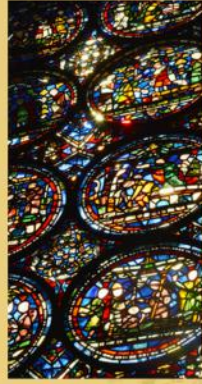


From King Ethelbert, the first British king to convert to Christianity, via tales of Viking King Canute and Henry V's success at the battle of Agincourt, monarchs have left their mark on the Cathedral in many ways. Henry II's disputes with his Archbishop Thomas Becket led to one of the most shocking murders of the Middle Ages, while Henry VIII's split with Rome resulted in a violent rebuke to papist churches.

Other monarchs have enjoyed a happier relationship with Canterbury, in 1236 Henry III married Eleanor of Provence here, while Queen Elizabeth I lavishly celebrated her 40th birthday, and King Henry IV and the Black Prince both chose to be buried within. You will hear these royal stories and more as you are introduced to monarchs immortalised in stone, wood and stained glass around the Cathedral's walls.

Guided Tour 'Through the Stained Glass Window'

Canterbury Cathedral contains over 1,200 square metres of stained glass depicting inspirational stories of men and women, including one of England's largest collections of early medieval stained glass. Recent research indicates that some of these stained glass windows from may be among the oldest in the world.



On this guided tour you can learn the full story of the Ancestor Windows and their new dating, as well as exploring many other of the Cathedral's fascinating and beautiful windows, from the unique 'Miracle Windows' which told the stories of miracles performed at Thomas Becket's shrine, through to the informative panels which illustrate stories from the Bible.

You will be introduced to some of the techniques of stained glass production through as well as exploring some of the most colourful and imaginative stained glass in the country.



Private Evening Guided Tour

There is nothing more atmospheric than a private cathedral visit, just for you and your group. We are offering groups the chance to explore the Cathedral when it is closed to the public, for an exclusive guided tour, taken 'after hours'.

We might also be able to combine the tour with a drinks reception at our on-site accommodation Cathedral Lodge.



The tour Experience lasts approx. 90 mins.

Minimum group size 25 or fixed rate charge. We can accommodate larger group sizes on this tour with multiple guides.

Refreshment costs available on request.

Afternoon tours with Evensong

Why not combine a guided Cathedral tour with the chance to experience our atmospheric Choral Evensong?

As the day begins with Morning Prayer, so the Cathedral day ends with an evening service of prayer and praise, using the traditional language of the Book of Common Prayer. This is normally sung by the Cathedral Choir and the service is at 17.30 hrs Monday to Friday and 15.15hrs on Saturdays and Sundays. The service lasts about 40 minutes and is free.

When the members of the Cathedral Choir are taking a holiday, Evensong is usually sung by a visiting choir, but occasionally is replaced by said Evening Prayer.



Cathedral Experiences:

Canterbury's UNESCO Places

Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site comprises three holy places which are integral to the history of the re-introduction of Christianity into England in the 6th Century- St Martin's, the nation's oldest continually used church, St Augustine's Abbey, burial place of Anglo-Saxon kings and the first Archbishops of Canterbury, and Canterbury Cathedral. These holy sites not only tell the story of Christianity in the Anglo-Saxon world, but were also witnesses to centuries of England's history, with their stories etched into the fabric of the buildings.



Starting with a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral followed by refreshments, a tour of St. Augustine's Abbey is followed by a break for lunch (not included) before the fascinating history of St Martin's Church is revealed.

The walk then returns to Canterbury Cathedral for the opportunity to explore the gardens, revisit the cathedral or enjoy the shop. All guest are invited to stay and experience Choral Evenson at the Cathedral.

This experience lasts around 6 hours.

Group size 10-15. Please note this tour involves walking a distance of around 1.5 miles, standing for long periods and uneven terrain and might not be suitable for all travellers

Behind the Scenes Experiences

Canterbury Cathedral Stained Glass Studio Tour

The Cathedral Studios workshop is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of Stained Glass Heritage. Book a visit to the studio to learn more about their work specialising in the conservation, restoration and protection of stained glass from the 12th Century to the 20th Century.

Not suitable for under 18s. Maximum Group Size 10 people. Sensible footwear must be worn.

Stonemasons Tours

Canterbury Cathedral has its own team of stonemasons who repair and preserve the amazing stonework on site. Book a Stonemason's tour and you will learn about the never-ending task of conservation and maintenance, as they use the skills of this incredibly old craft to preserve the beauty and history of this wonderful place as you are taken around the Stonemasons' Studio, tucked away in the Cathedral Precincts on a true behind the scenes tour.





Gardens

Gardens have surrounded the Cathedral since monastic times, when the monks grew vegetables, fruit and herbs as part of their doctrine of self-sufficiency. The gardens are still an important space for services, reflection and relaxation today.

Deanery Gardens Tour

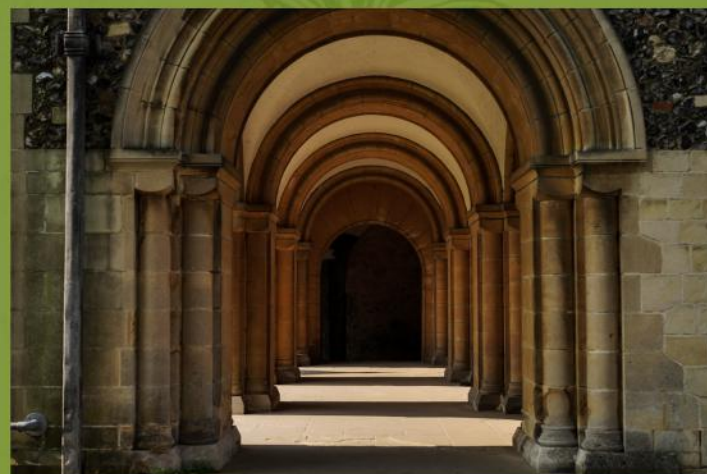
New for 2024-book a private tour of the private Deanery Gardens, led by a member of the Senior Gardening Team. Discover the hidden gardens which make up the Dean's private residence and learn how the gardening team and restoring the gardens to their former glory. The Dean's gardens rose to fame during Lockdown when our previous Dean Robert Willis filmed daily prayers in their tranquil and beautiful surroundings, which became popular worldwide. Tours last 90 minutes, maximum 15 people.

Cathedral Precincts Guided Tour

Walk the perimeter of the Cathedral and learn about its history from the Cathedral architecture, statues and its outside adornments. Discover how the Cathedral was first built and altered over time. Hear why the Cathedral Crypt is above ground and how the feet of Stephen Langton, a major influencer of Magna Carta, are out in the cold.



Please note that this tour takes place outside-advise guests to dress appropriately.



Cathedral Archives and Library

The Cathedral Archives and Library houses manuscript, archive and book collections dating back to the 9th century. Records in the Cathedral's archive collection include the medieval charters of the Cathedral priory, fragments of medieval books, historic maps and photographs. The Cathedral's medieval archive is included on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register. The library collection includes books on a range of subject matters from the early decades of printing onwards.

We can provide a general visit or a tour adjusted to the particular interests of the pre-booked group, including a display of documents and books. Tours last 30 minutes - 1 hour.

The preferred days for visits are Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Maximum group size: 30 people. Charges and minimum charge for small groups apply. Specialist groups may incur an additional fee to cover time taken for research and additional preparation.

Food and Drink

We can now offer groups buffet sandwich lunches, cream teas and tea and cake options for group sizes between 15-40, all at very reasonable prices.

Group catering will take place in our Visitor Centre with amazing views of the Cathedral.

Larger groups and more bespoke options from drinks receptions through to three-course lunches are available at our Cathedral Lodge Restaurant.



Please contact events@canterburycathedrallodge.org for menus and more information.



Festive Visit Ideas

Christmas Talk

One of the most important festivals in the Christian calendar, Christmas has been celebrated in different ways throughout history. This talk will cover customs associated with Christmas in the Middle Ages, such as appointing a Boy Bishop, St Nicholas' feast day, and the unruly Feast of Fools on January 1st and tell how the Puritans' attempts to cancel Christmas resulted in Canterbury's Plum Pudding Riots of 1647.

We also highlight some of the Cathedral's own traditions, such as our four special Christmas trees, our Christmas services and the Cathedral choirs who make Christmas sound magical.

Talks are held in our AV Studio which seats up to 35 people and last around 30 minutes.

Talks can be arranged in November and December and combined with group refreshment options.



A Suggested Festive Visit Itinerary

- Arrive on site and start your visit with our Christmas Talk
- Enjoy tea, coffee and mince pies
- Explore Canterbury Cathedral in depth and discover the history of our stained glass windows on our Through the Stained Glass Window guided tour, with special focus on our Nativity windows as this festive time of year
- Stock up on Christmas gifts in our Gift Shop
- Explore Canterbury's Christmas Market which runs from early November to Christmas Eve.





Accessibility

- Guide Dogs Welcome
- Hearing Loop Available
- Lift to some areas

We want you to enjoy the facilities at the Cathedral and a range of material from large print leaflets, induction loops, lifts and accessible toilets are available. Please note that the Cathedral is a medieval building, situated on several levels and access varies depending on the area you wish to see.

Our Facilities for Visitors with Disabilities leaflet gives details of routes to the different areas and is available on our website or on request. Please email any questions or requirements in advance to access@canterbury-cathedral.org.



Shopping



With a wide range of guide books in many languages and books about Canterbury Cathedral's history and architecture as well as religious topics, our large shop is a must-visit as part of your time on site. Selling everything from cards, gifts, 'pilgrims' tokens' and cds featuring our world-famous choirs, our gift shop is located within our Visitor Centre.

Every purchase supports the Cathedral. You can also shop online at canterbury-cathedral.org/shop

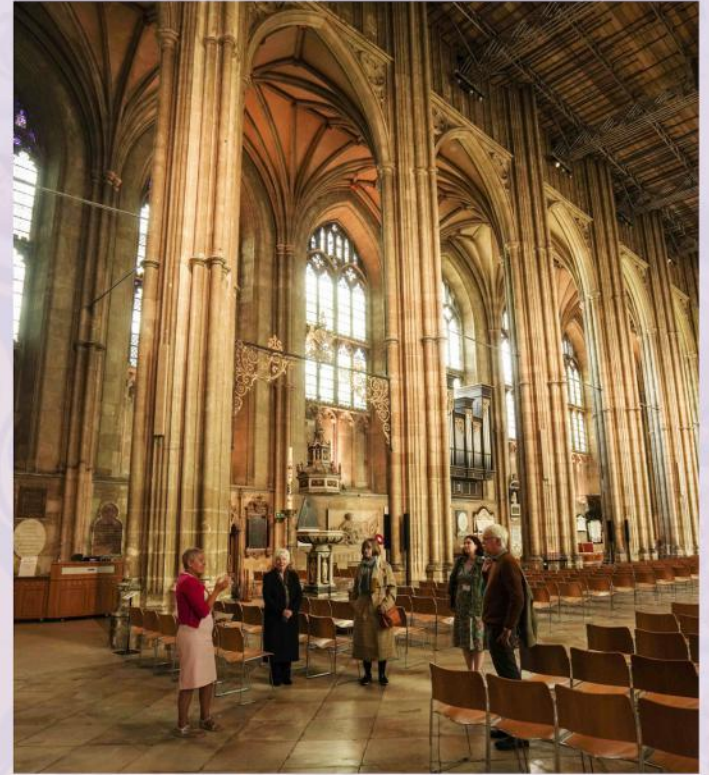


How to Find Us

Canterbury is within easy reach of London (56 minutes by train), the Channel ports (30 minutes by car) and Ashford International/ Ebbsfleet stations (Eurostar 30/40 minutes).

The Cathedral is a short walk from Canterbury East and Canterbury West rail stations- follow signs for the city centre.

The Cathedral is situated in the centre of the city, just off the High Street, and is perfectly located for your group to add some retail therapy or an indulgent treats to their itinerary while enjoying the sights of this magnificent medieval city.



Canterbury Cathedral

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Canterbury
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Tel: 01227 762862

For more information-
Group Sales & Travel Trade Manager:
Melodie.Robson@canterbury-cathedral.org

To book contact:
visits@canterbury-cathedral.org
www.canterbury-cathedral.org

