

*Windsor Castle



Windsor Castle is a royal residence at Windsor in the English county of Berkshire. The original castle was built in the 11th century after the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror. Since the time of Henry I, it has been used by the reigning monarch and is the longest-occupied palace in Europe. The castle's lavish early 19th-century State Apartments were described by the art historian Hugh Roberts as "a superb and unrivalled sequence of rooms widely regarded as the finest and most complete expression of later Georgian taste"



William the Conqueror.
1027 (28)- 1087

- * Originally designed to protect Norman dominance around the outskirts of London and oversee a strategically important part of the River Thames, Windsor Castle was built as a motte-and-bailey, with three wards surrounding a central mound





Henry III built a luxurious royal palace within the castle during the middle of the century, and Edward III went further, rebuilding the palace to make an even grander set of buildings in what would become "the most expensive secular building project of the entire Middle Ages in England". Edward's core design lasted through the Tudor period, during which Henry VIII and Elizabeth I made increasing use of the castle as a royal court and centre for diplomatic entertainment.



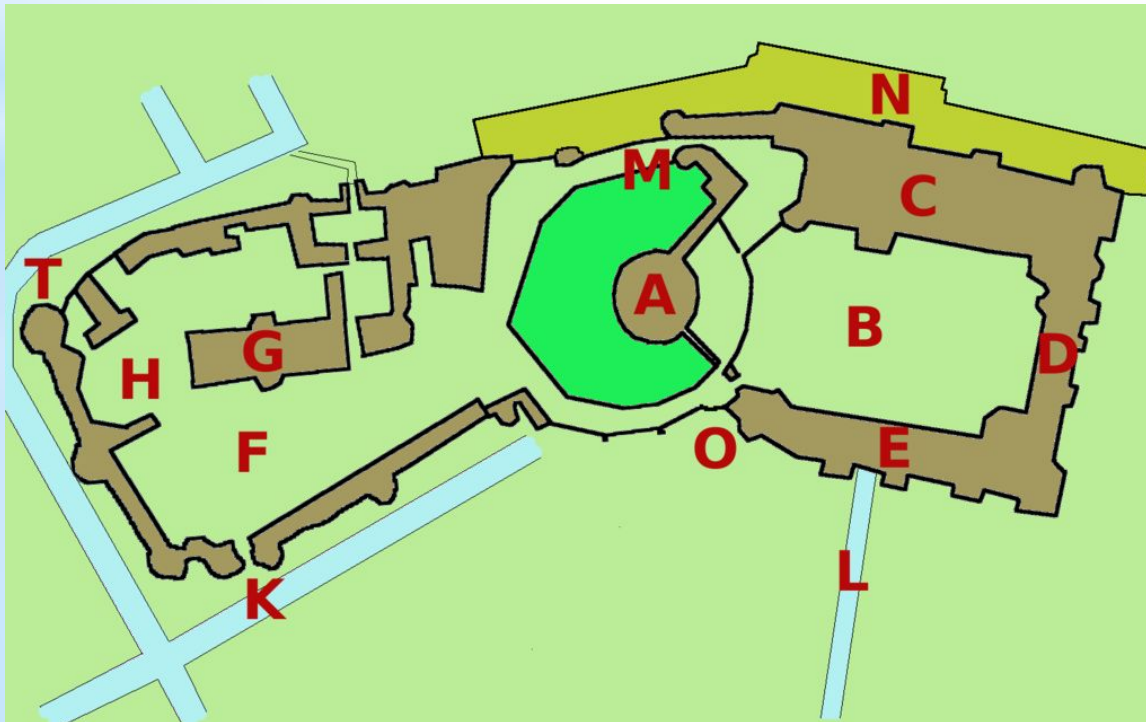
King Henry III



King Henry VIII

* Architecture

Windsor Castle occupies 13 acres (5.3 ha), and combines the features of a fortification, a palace, and a small town. The present-day castle was created during a sequence of phased building projects, culminating in the reconstruction work after a fire in 1992. It is in essence a Georgian and Victorian design based on a medieval structure, with Gothic features reinvented in a modern style. Since the 14th century, architecture at the castle has attempted to produce a contemporary reinterpretation of older fashions and traditions, repeatedly imitating outmoded or even antiquated styles. As a result, architect Sir William Whitfield has pointed to Windsor Castle's architecture as having "a certain fictive quality", the Picturesque and Gothic design generating "a sense that a theatrical performance is being put on here", despite late 20th century efforts to expose more of the older structures to increase the sense of authenticity. Although there has been some criticism, the castle's architecture and history lends it a "place amongst the greatest European palaces".



Plan of Windsor Castle.

Key: A: The Round Tower,
B: The Upper Ward, The Quadrangle,
C: The State Apartments,
D: Private Apartments,
E: South Wing,
F: Lower Ward,
G: St George's Chapel,
H: Horseshoe Cloister,
K: King Henry VIII Gate,
L: The Long Walk,
M: Norman Gate,
N: North Terrace,
O: Edward III Tower,
T: The Curfew Tower

* Middle Ward

At the heart of Windsor Castle is the Middle Ward, a bailey formed around the motte or artificial hill in the centre of the ward



*Upper Ward

The Upper Ward of Windsor Castle comprises a number of major buildings enclosed by the upper bailey wall, forming a central quadrangle.



*State Apartments

The State Apartments form the major part of the Upper Ward and lie along the north side of the quadrangle. The modern building follows the medieval foundations laid down by Edward III, with the ground floor comprising service chambers and cellars, and the much grander first floor forming the main part of the palace. On the first floor, the layout of the western end of the State Apartments is primarily the work of architect Hugh May



* Lower Ward

The Lower Ward lies below and to the west of the Round Tower. On the north side of the Lower Ward is St George's Chapel. This huge building is the spiritual home of the Order of the Knights of the Garter and dates from the late 15th and early 16th century, designed in the Perpendicular Gothic style



The Horseshoe Cloister, built in 1480 and reconstructed in the 19th century

* Park and landscape

Windsor Castle's position on top of steep ground has meant that the castle's gardens are limited in scale. The castle gardens stretch east from the Upper Ward across a 19th-century terrace. Windsor Castle is surrounded by extensive parkland.



*21st century

Windsor Castle, part of the Occupied Royal Palaces Estate, is owned by Queen Elizabeth II in right of the Crown, and day-to-day management is by the Royal Household. In terms of population, Windsor Castle is the largest inhabited castle in the world and the longest-occupied palace in Europe, but it also remains a functioning royal home.



*Excursions

Excursions are held in a group format, with a specific visit period, at which time the monarchs are not present at the residence of the family. All travelers, unfortunately, will be prohibited from taking photographs when the path will run through the royal state apartments, but Windsor Castle will remain in the hearts of all its visitors, thanks to the possibility of panoramic shooting of this legendary place.

Name	Individual			Group (15 +)		
	adult	preferential	children's	adult	preferential	children's
Windsor Castle	£20	£18.20	(5-17) £11.70 (до 5) беспл.	£18	£16.40	(5-17) £10.50 (до 5) беспл.