



These pre-bookable tours are available to groups of 5 or more and must be booked in advance. These tours focus on areas of specific interest. To book please contact the Visitor Services Team on 01962 857 200 or email [visits@winchester-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:visits@winchester-cathedral.org.uk).

### **Cathedral Tour**

See the Cathedral come to life with this guided tour. Experienced guides will point out some of the most treasured artefacts, tell some of their favourite stories and give a general overview of the Cathedral history. This is our most popular tour and offers a comprehensive introduction for first-time visitors.

### **Are there bones beneath these stones?**

A detailed look at some of the gravestones, tombs etc in the Cathedral.

### **Art in the Cathedral**

Winchester Cathedral is rich in art objects, including works by well-known artists, Peter Eugene Ball, Cecil Collins, Eric Gill, Antony Gormley and Justin Knowles, as well as local artists Sophie Hacker, Tim Harrisson, Alice Kettle, Tracey Sheppard - and many more. This Tour enables visitors to enjoy a close-up interaction with several of these works, within the context of this very special, time-honoured place.

### **Cathedral Women**

Women have always played a part in our Cathedral life; often in a hidden or secondary role. This tour celebrates our Cathedral women, past and present - a selection of famous, self-sacrificing, dutiful and wrongly accused women. Also women who beautify the Cathedral for the Glory of God.

### **Chantry Chapels – Our Hidden Places**

The Cathedral is famous for its chantry chapels. However as access can sometimes be difficult they are usually kept locked and can only be seen from the outside. On this tour the chapels will be open and visitors will be allowed inside to see, at close quarters what they contain.

### **Close Encounters – Exploring the Close**

Walk the Inner Close in the footsteps of Benedictine monks and explore over 1000 years of history. From monastic times, through the turbulence of the Civil War, up to the present day. Enjoy 'Close Encounters' with the people who lived in and walked through the close and step briefly into their lives.

### **Curious & Mysterious**

Mysteries are as irksome to the human mind, as a grain of sand is to an oyster. This tour will explain some of the more curious and mysterious happenings, connected to the Cathedral and its monuments; dating from 1250, to the present day.

### **Face the Music**

Face the music includes background musical history and examines aspects of music within the Cathedral. There are three types of visual clues: firstly, images in stone, wood, glass and embroidery reflecting 'heavenly harmony'; secondly memorials and graffiti referring to specific musical personalities; and thirdly, places and objects with musical functions such as organ or the Treasure.



### **For All the Saints**

Originally the term saint was used for those who suffered martyrdom for their faith. Nowadays a saint is one who has been recognised for having an exceptional degree of holiness, sanctity, and virtue. Saints were always held in great reverence as examples for Christians to look up to, and their images were prevalent in English churches. Although orders were given for the images to be removed at the time of the reformation, the Cathedral now has many examples in its glass, its stonework, in wall paintings and on textiles. This tour looks at some of the saints represented in the Cathedral and tells their stories.

### **From Vision to Reality – The architecture and building of the Cathedral**

Follow the evolution of this monumental Norman cathedral through the subsequent development of the medieval period to the Reformation and early Renaissance. Learn about the many different styles of architecture and the extraordinary achievements of the builders in creating this magnificent cathedral.

### **Green Men**

The term “Green Men” was only brought into use in 1939, but their existence goes back many years and actually predates Christianity. They are a carver’s device, rarely found in glass or in illuminated manuscripts and they were particularly popular in the 14th century. There are over 70 examples in the Cathedral although some are difficult to spot, and on the tour we shall look at several different types of Green Men, including one for which Winchester is rightly famous.

### **Heroes and Villains**

Who fled the cathedral in a dung-cart? Who refused lodgings to Charles II’s “trollop”? Who owned the hoof of a griffin? Find out about the great, the good and the occasionally ghastly men (and one woman) whose fascinating stories are told in this tour.

### **Hurray for Henrys**

An account of some of the distinguished men called Henry who have played significant roles in the Cathedral. Come and find out about the King who wasn’t there, and the naval Henry who saved his ship from a hurricane. The Henry who was crowned here but never reigned, and the Henry who celebrated his wedding with “crowned swans”. There was an outlaw Bishop and the man who helped save the Cathedral and build the London underground – all called Henry!

### **The Icons of the Cathedral**

There are 12 icons in Winchester Cathedral. This tour aims to study each in turn; the way they are made, their roots in history and the tradition which produced their artistic style, also to explore the layers of symbolism and meaning within them.

### **Ins and Outs of Europe**

Co-operation and conflict between Britain and Europe as reflected in Winchester Cathedral  
During this tour we will review how England and Britain’s fluctuating relationships with Europe during the last 1000 years has brought benefits to art and architecture in Winchester Cathedral and is reflected in the lives of Saints, Bishops, Royalty and citizens connected with the Cathedral. Conflicts such as the 100 years’ War, the Hard Brexit of the Reformation, and wars in the 19th and 20th centuries have all left their mark on the Cathedral. Closer ties with Europe and the rest of the world have brought happier relationships in modern times, but for how long?



### **Jane Austen - Her Life and Times**

Jane Austen died in Winchester in 1817, in rented rooms in College Street. She was buried in the north aisle of the Cathedral, probably arranged by her brother Henry who had been ordained shortly before her death. This tour offers visitors an intimate and often amusing insight into her life and connections with the Cathedral.

### **Just Williams**

Learn about the many illustrious and or some cases lesser-known men called William who have played significant roles in the history of the cathedral.

### **The Marriage of England & Spain: Mary Tudor's wedding**

**Queen Mary I Marries Prince Philip of Spain:** the most famous wedding ever to have taken place in Winchester Cathedral. Discover the intrigues and plots behind-the-scenes in these turbulent Tudor Counter-Reformation times, and eavesdrop on the sumptuous ceremony itself...

### **Medieval Times**

A view of this great church from 1079 to 1485 - seeing what its builders produced; the works of carvers, painters, glassmakers and tilers. See ancient books and documents, including the Winchester Bible. Hear also stories of the men and women, bishops and monks associated with the monastery and the financial and political problems they faced.

### **Our Royal Heritage**

This tour identifies some of the many royal connections from the time of the Norman Conquest to the present day.

### **Pestilence penitence and Putrefaction: A Medical History of Winchester Cathedral**

For nearly 1400 years, those associated with the Cathedrals in Winchester have played an important part in the care of the sick and management of disease. This tour recounts the history of medicine in relation to the structure of the present Cathedral and the people commemorated within it.

### **Stained Glass**

Stained Glass - a relatively unexplored cathedral treasure. Bring binoculars for best viewing. Winchester Cathedral offers the opportunity to study glass from the workshops of medieval masters of the 14th, 15th and early 16th century and to follow the enthusiastic Victorian revival and the Arts and Crafts movement to the present day.

### **Stitched and Woven**

#### **(Vestments, cushions and altar frontals)**

With few exceptions, all the items were made between the late nineteenth century and the present day. Amongst earlier examples are some pieces of Spanish work believed to have been used at the marriage of Queen Mary in 1554. The vestments include a treasured set designed by Ninian Comper over a century ago, and the most recent commissioned for the enthronement of the present Bishop in 2012. Sets of cushions and the altar frontals complement the glass and stonework throughout the Cathedral.

### **Supertour (approx 1 ½ hours)**

A unique opportunity to take an in-depth tour of the cathedral, bringing to life the events of nearly 1000 years; encompassing monarchs, bishops, monks, plague, Reformation and civil war together with the work of medieval and contemporary craftsman.



### **This Royal House of Saxon Kings and Saints**

The Anglo Saxon Minster and its role in the birth of the English nation, the personalities who inhabited it and the traces which are still visible today. Part of this tour is outside on slightly uneven ground, suitable clothing and footwear should be worn.

### **Tudor Intrigue in Turbulent Times**

The religious upheavals of the Reformation, the cultural revolution of the Renaissance and the powerful personalities of the Tudor monarchs have all left their mark on Winchester Cathedral. Come and see this fascinating period of history brought to life.

### **The Victorian Story – Vision, Virtue and Infamy**

The Cathedral was cold, dismal and colourless when Queen Victoria came to the throne. This tour traces its transformation and introduces colourful Victorian personalities associated with the Cathedral including Soapy Sam; the Bishop of Borneo; the anti muckabite Dean Garnier and the inspiration for one of Trollope's characters.

### **Walking on History**

The famous tile pavements of Winchester Cathedral enable us to track the stories behind the Cathedral's history and the tales of the people who influenced its development.

We'll walk where pilgrims and the famous have been before us, explore what they were trying to tell us through these designs and how the tiles reflected the life and times.

It's an intriguing tale from 1093 through to today

### **The Winchester Diver (William Walker)**

One of the most fascinating stories around Winchester Cathedral is that of William Walker "the diver who saved the Cathedral with his own hands". In the early years of the 20th century, alarming defects appeared in the east end of the Cathedral and desperate measures were needed to safeguard it for the future. In the end the hero of the day was William Walker, who worked in atrocious and dangerous conditions for over 5 years. The tour will describe in detail this unique project, one of the greatest engineering preservation feats of its time. Evidence still visible will be highlighted both within and outside the Cathedral, as will the commemorative statues to William Walker, a truly remarkable man.

### **Winged Messengers**

An angel is a supernatural being or spirit, usually humanoid in form, found in various religions and mythologies. The name comes from the Greek, *angelos*, meaning messenger. There are well over a hundred representations of angels in Winchester Cathedral, in glass, woodwork, stonework, paintings, and textiles. Some even survived the reformation and our earliest angel dates from the 12th century. The tour takes in a variety of images spanning 800 years.

### **Wood Glorious Wood**

This tour explores the exceptional riches of the Cathedral's woodwork, ancient and modern. It considers the indispensable role of wood in the construction and preservation of the building and we discover wood furnishings and decoration as far back as the 12th century. The highlight of the tour is a look in some detail at one of the Cathedral's greatest treasures, the 14th century quire stalls, described as "the most beautiful in Northern Europe".