

# WINDSOR CASTLE TODAY



Windsor Castle has been the home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years. It is an official residence of Queen Elizabeth II, whose standard flies from the Round Tower when Her Majesty is in residence.

The Queen spends most of her private weekends at Windsor Castle and takes up official residence for a month over Easter, known as 'Easter Court'. The Queen is also at Windsor for one week each June, while attending Royal Ascot and the service of the Order of the Garter at [St George's Chapel \(visit/windsor-castle/highlights-of-windsor-castle##stgeorgechapel\)](#).

Windsor Castle is still very much a working royal palace and is regularly used for ceremonial and State occasions, including official visits from overseas Heads of State. St George's Hall makes a spectacular setting for a State Banquet, when a table seating 160 guests is decorated with porcelain and silver-gilt from the Royal Collection.

Explore a State Banquet in our 360 image

[https://interactives.rct.uk/360video/windsorcas-startscene=scene\\_003-statebanquet](https://interactives.rct.uk/360video/windsorcas-startscene=scene_003-statebanquet)

Image credit: Will Pearson | Eye Revolution

St George's Chapel within the Castle Precincts is the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, founded at Windsor by Edward III in 1348. The Garter Knights attend an annual Service of Thanksgiving in the Chapel, processing in their robes and insignia through the Castle Precincts. Today, the Order includes The Queen, who is Sovereign of the Garter, several senior Members of the Royal Family, and 24 knights chosen in recognition of their work. St George's Chapel remains an active centre for worship, with daily services open to all.



The Queen with The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge in the annual Garter Ceremony at Windsor Castle. © (copyright)

The Castle is also open to visitors all year round. Learn more about the [highlights of a visit \(visit/windsor-castle/highlights-of-windsor-castle\)](#).

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