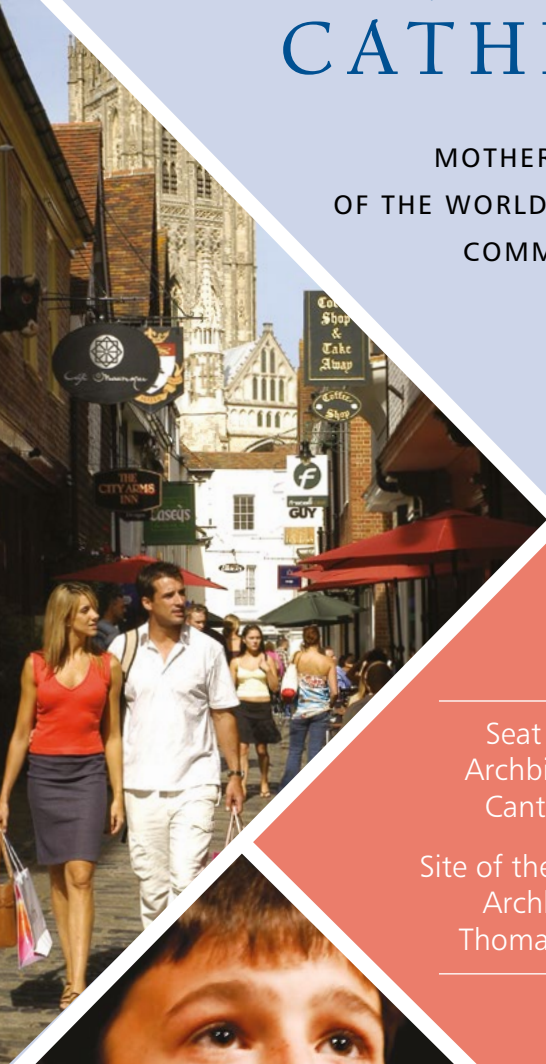


WELCOME TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

MOTHER CHURCH
OF THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN
COMMUNION



Seat of the
Archbishop of
Canterbury

Site of the murder of
Archbishop
Thomas Becket





WELCOME

Pilgrims and visitors have made their way to Canterbury Cathedral since the Middle Ages. It remains one of the most visited places in the country, and, just as importantly, a working, living church and community. Visitors have always been made welcome in the ancient tradition of Benedictine hospitality, and we continue this tradition, warmly inviting you to share with us the beauty of one of the great holy places of Christendom.





“CANTERBURY TOPS THE CHARTS

WHEN IT COMES TO ENGLISH
CATHEDRAL CITIES”

LONELY PLANET GUIDE

THE CATHEDRAL AND ITS HISTORY

In 597AD, Pope Gregory the Great sent a monk, Augustine, to England as a missionary. Augustine established his seat (or ‘Cathedra’) and monastery in Canterbury and became England’s first Archbishop.

In 1170 Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the Cathedral and, when soon afterwards miracles were said to take place, the Cathedral became one of Europe’s most important pilgrimage centres, as most famously told in Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales.

The Cathedral is the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury and services (many sung by our world-renowned choir) take place every day. For millions of Anglicans worldwide, Canterbury Cathedral is their Mother Church.



“HUMANITY WAS NEVER SO
HAPPILY INSPIRED AS WHEN IT
MADE A CATHEDRAL”

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, 1850-1894

One of the greatest glories of Canterbury Cathedral is its stained glass, and visitors from all over the world wonder at the craftsmanship that dates back to the days of the murder of Thomas Becket. Indeed, the collection of 12th and 13th century glass - depicting royal connections, bible stories and miracles associated with Thomas Becket – is the most important collection of early medieval stained glass in the country.



Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church make up Canterbury's World Heritage Site. St Martin's Church, the building in which Augustine and his followers first worshipped, is the oldest working church in England. The ruins of St Augustine's Abbey include the remains of the monastery where his monks lived and

worshipped and where Kentish Kings and the first Archbishops were buried.

GROUP FACILITIES

Pre-booked groups benefit from reduced rates and fast-track entry. Visit the Cathedral website for up-to-date rates, or contact the Visits Office.

GUIDED TOURS

Our guides are experts at making the Cathedral's rich history come to life and we strongly recommend you book a private tour (available in 10 languages) for your group. Guided tours can be booked any time from 09.00-15.30 hrs Monday – Friday, and 09.00-13.00 hrs on Saturday, and can be tailored to the special interest of the group.

Depending on Cathedral availability, historic evening tours may also be arranged.

AUDIO TOURS AND AUDIO VISUAL

Audio tours, lasting 40 minutes, are available in seven languages. An attractive AV theatre may be booked to view a short film (in several languages) as an introduction to your visit.

Augustinus
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E. scrip
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**“A VIBRANT
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY**

WHERE PRAYER HAS BEEN
OFFERED FOR MORE THAN
1400 YEARS”

PILGRIMAGES

The Cathedral continues to attract modern day pilgrims and staff in the Visits Office would be pleased to discuss special requirements for private services or guided tours of a more spiritual nature.

CHOIRS

We offer choirs the opportunity to give informal midday recitals in the Cathedral. The recitals take place at midday in the Quire and last a maximum of 30 minutes.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS



Most visitors do not realise that behind-the-scenes some 300 people still go about their daily business, preparing services, creating beautiful music, restoring the stained glass and crumbling stone, and conserving unique and rare books, much as the monks did so many years ago.

Groups visiting the Cathedral can now experience these fascinating aspects of Cathedral life. Special tailor-made

packages can be arranged to visit the Cathedral's priceless archives and rare books library, to learn more about stained glass conservation, to view the beautiful church vestments, to observe the skills of our (25!) stonemasons or to enjoy a tour by our Head Gardener.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We offer a wide range of facilities for visitors with specific needs. A detailed Access Statement and 'Visitors with Disabilities' leaflet may be downloaded from our website, and staff will be pleased to assist during the booking process or on arrival.

EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

The Cathedral is a rich educational resource and we offer a wide range of formal and informal learning activities to inspire young and old.

Our Schools Office offers curriculum linked activities for visiting schools and the Visits Office arranges tours tailored to study subjects such as architecture, conservation, literature, music, art and of course religion for students in further and higher education.

Foreign language students improve their language skills with our EFL questionnaire, as well as learn about the Cathedral's rich history. We also offer guided tours in 'slow English'.

Educational visits may be combined with a visit to the Cathedral Archives & Library.

GENERAL VISITING TIMES

Weekdays Summer 09.00-17.30* hrs

Winter 09.00-17.00* hrs

The Crypt

10.00-17.00*/17.30* hrs

Sundays Throughout the year,
including the Crypt
12.30-14.30* hrs

**Last entry 30 minutes prior to closing times*

Please note the Cathedral, or parts of it, regularly close for special events or services. Always check up-to-date opening times before travelling.

Except for services, there is a charge to enter the Precincts.



“AWARDED THE
CERTIFICATE OF
EXCELLENCE”

TRIP ADVISOR
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
LODGE

ACCOMMODATION

There is so much to see in Canterbury, you will need days to explore it all, so why not stay overnight in the grounds of the Cathedral? Canterbury Cathedral Lodge offers first class accommodation with stunning Cathedral views. The Lodge also offers conference facilities and group hospitality.

Visit www.canterburycathedrallodge.org for details.

HOW TO GET TO CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Canterbury is within easy reach of London, the Channel ports, London airports and Ashford International/Ebbsfleet (Eurostar) stations. The Cathedral is a short walk from the Canterbury East or West station and coach park. A coach drop-off is available at the bus station.

For details and downloadable maps, visit www.visitcanterbury.co.uk.