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SERVICES & MUSIC

Music has played a key role at Ely for over 1000 years and is an integral part of its history. It is now one of the few remaining Cathedrals to support a residential choir. The 24 boy choristers live within the precinct and sing in the Cathedral up to six days a week during term time.

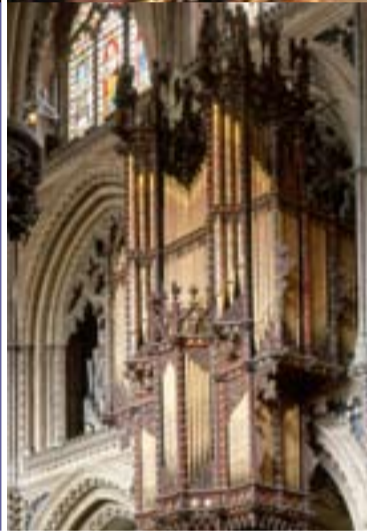


THE LADY CHAPEL

Completed in 1349, the Lady Chapel is the largest of its kind in the UK. Visitors are always struck by the light and vastness as they enter this wonderful space. It is one of the key visitor attractions at Ely and its architectural beauty and historic significance is renowned all over the world.



DAY OUT AT ELY CATHEDRAL



One of the best times to come and experience the wonderful tradition of choral music is Evensong which takes place daily at 5.30pm (Mon – Sat) or 4.00pm on Sunday.

Although a major visitor attraction & heritage site, Ely Cathedral remains a Christian place of worship with services and choral music offered daily.

For times of services and worship, please visit the website.



Take time to sit in the alcove seats of the wall arcade and observe the headless statues and defaced figures which were destroyed during the Reformation.

Above the altar stands the statue of the *Blessed Virgin Mary*, by David Wynne, which dominates the East window.

CONTACT US

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There is an admission charge to visit the Cathedral, except for Sundays and services.

Groups and coach tours welcome by appointment.

OPENING TIMES

The Cathedral is open 365 days a year.

APRIL – OCTOBER
07:00 – 18:30 Daily

NOVEMBER – MARCH
07:00 – 18:30 Monday – Saturday
07:00 – 17:30 Sunday

For more visitor information, a guide to music, concerts, services and online shopping, please visit our website:

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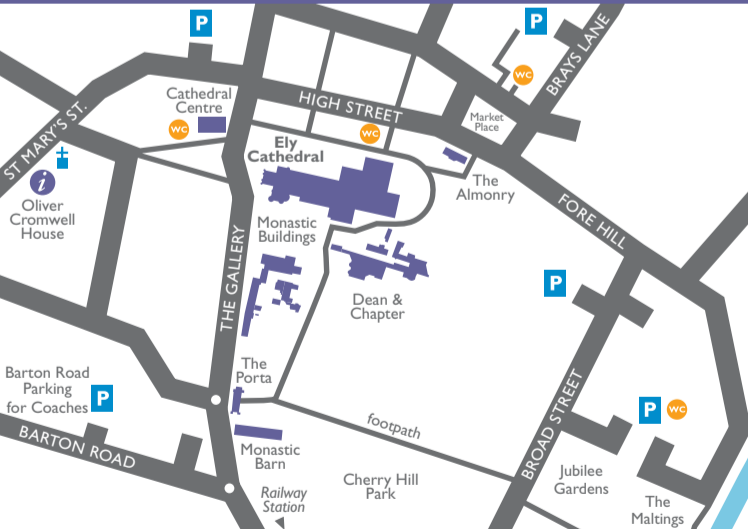
STAINED GLASS AT ELY

Ely demonstrates better than any other building, the Victorian revival of stained glass with over 100 examples by the most prolific painters of the period. Many windows illustrate the main stories of the Bible depicting these events in wonderful colour and detail.



CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP

The recently refurbished gift shop is a good reason to visit Ely Cathedral. Visitors can purchase books, postcards and souvenirs of Ely as well as a wide range of beautiful gifts, handbags, jewellery and stationery.



TRAVELLING TO ELY

By Road
Car parking is available in and around Ely
20 minutes from Cambridge via the A10
20 minutes from Newmarket via the A142
40 minutes from King's Lynn via the A10
90 minutes from London via the M11 and the A10

By Rail
The Cathedral is only a short walk from Ely Railway Station
12 minutes from Cambridge
34 minutes from Peterborough
54 minutes from Norwich
59 minutes from Stansted Airport
62 minutes from London – Kings Cross or Liverpool Street



There is a **Stained Glass Museum** at Ely Cathedral. It is the only one of its kind in the UK, and is located in the South Triforium. It exhibits over 100 items of some of the most beautiful glass dating from the 13th century to the present day. The shop has a selection of wonderful books, cards and many hand-made glass items.

There is a separate charge to visit the museum.



This well stocked shop includes brands such as *Floris, Cath Kidston, Peony* and *Dents* plus luxury cards and gift wrap.

There is also an interesting selection of books and CDs including the numerous recordings by the Choirs of Ely Cathedral.

There is no admission charge to access the shop.

GUIDED TOURS

We offer ground floor guided tours several times throughout the day. Our experienced guides will lead you through the Cathedral and its medieval buildings. Discover the architecture, symbolism and the stories associated with the Cathedral including the Kings & Saints who have shaped its history.

Guided tours are included in the entrance fee and take about one hour.



TOWER TOURS

A visit to Ely Cathedral would not be complete without a tour of our celebrated towers. Tours are subject to weather conditions and Cathedral services. The maximum number of people per tour is twelve and children must be ten years old or over. A reasonable level of fitness is required to climb to the top, so it is not advisable for anyone in poor health.



BRASS RUBBING & OTHER ACTIVITIES

We have a variety of brasses to try your hand at brass rubbing which makes an interesting and worthwhile pastime while visiting Ely.

Participate in the Children's Activity Trail, and if you crack the code you could win a prize!



Octagon Tower

Ely's famous Octagon, known as a wonder of medieval engineering, is described as nothing less than a masterpiece. Our guided tour will take you back to the time of King Edward III and inside his Master Carpenter's oak Lantern Tower, which entralls all our visitors by its size and skilful design.



Discover:

- How a Saxon Princess, who ran away from her husband, became a Saint and founder of Ely.
- How did a Cathedral, built on the Cambridgeshire Fens, come to be the only UK building recognised as one of the Seven Medieval Wonders of the World?
- The connection with King Cnut and his treacherous journey through the icy Fens to attend Candlemas at Ely.

- The astonishing collapse of the Cathedral's central tower and its replacement by a unique Octagon Tower for which Ely is famed.
- Why Oliver Cromwell shut the Cathedral for 11 years.
- The effect of the Reformation on the Cathedral and its fabric.
- The changes imposed on the Cathedral by the great Victorian restoration.

West Tower

At 215 feet (65.5m) high, the West Tower of Ely Cathedral dates from the 13th and 14th centuries and dominates the Fenland landscape. The view from the top is spectacular and well worth the climb.



It is said that if you walk the 19th century Labyrinth at the West Door of the Cathedral you will have walked the equivalent of the height of the ceiling above you.

We have many animals represented in the Cathedral in the form of stone, monuments, wood carvings and in stained glass.

Why not see how many you can spot on your way around the building?

MONASTIC BUILDINGS

Ely's Monastic Buildings are some of the oldest inhabited buildings in the country. Still in existence are the Prior's House with its vaulted undercroft, and the central part of the Infirmary complex. By the end of the 13th century, the Cathedral and its monastic buildings were largely complete, and included the Almonry which is now a tea room &



EATING & DRINKING

Relax in the **Almonry Tea Rooms & Restaurant** garden overlooking the Cathedral. The Almonry provides locally sourced, home-made food. There is an extensive lunch menu as well as a wide range of freshly made cakes & scones for morning coffee and afternoon teas. The main restaurant is located in the unique 11th century undercroft.



FILM & TV LOCATION

In recent years Ely has become well known as a major film & TV location.

The Lady Chapel was transformed into the Palace of Westminster for **Elizabeth: The Golden Age**, and the Nave was a key location for several scenes in **The Other Boleyn Girl**.



Not only is Ely Cathedral located in the centre of this beautiful city, it is also surrounded by parkland and meadows. The Dean's Meadow and Cherry Hill Park will take you from the Cathedral down to the picturesque riverside. The surrounding gardens, lawns and parks make ideal spots for a picnic or somewhere to sit and enjoy the spectacular views.



Located just inside the Cathedral, the **Refectory Café** offers a selection of home-made cakes as well as light lunches, freshly made sandwiches and soups. In summertime there is outside seating where you can admire the huge North West façade of the building.

There is no admission charge to access the café.



Most recently the Cathedral was used for a prominent scene in the award winning film **The King's Speech**.

As a favoured film location, the Cathedral has played host to stars such as Cate Blanchett, Scarlett Johansson, Clive Owen, Natalie Portman, Kristin Scott-Thomas, Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush.