

Special Interest Tours with Lunch

1 hour 15 minutes (plus lunch) – Various dates

Delve deeper into the fascinating history of Ely Cathedral on one of our Special Interest Tours. These tours take place in the morning and finish with a two course lunch at The Almonry Restaurant.

Ely Cathedral - On Screen & In Print

A tour highlighting the internal locations used in major movies plus 'behind the scenes' accounts and photographs. Your guide will also highlight aspects of Ely Cathedral which have famously featured in works of fiction.

The Victorian Restoration

A tour to transport you back to the 1870s to appreciate the Cathedral as it would have appeared to a visitor at that time following a major restoration and reorganisation of the building, facilitated by the famous architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Reformation & Reconciliation

Meet Richard Cox, who became one of the first canons in the New Foundation and was close to the Court of Henry VIII. This tour will explore his appointments and achievements, highlighting the impact of the English Reformation on both person and place, at the time and in modern day.

Art in the Cathedral

This tour offers an opportunity to engage with Ely's rich art heritage, focusing on the sculptures, stained glass and painted ceilings of the 19th and 20th centuries.

A Social History of Ely Cathedral in the 19th Century

Who has the right to be buried at Ely Cathedral? Who was Ely's foremost astronomer? Which Dean instigated the famous Oxford/Cambridge boat race? Which Canon helped formulate the rules of football? Join our Guide as they reveal answers to these questions and other fascinating stories.

The Life of a Mediaeval Monk

Come and find out how the Mediaeval Monks lived, worked and worshipped in Ely dating back to 673. Over the years the monks were key to the evolution of the fens from inhospitable marsh to flourishing lands.

Ely Cathedral Peregrines

A few years ago a pair of Peregrines set up nest on the rooftop of Ely Cathedral. Working with the Hawk & Owl Trust we installed special nesting boxes which resulted in Peregrine chicks. Look out for our specialist guides in the Cathedral grounds who will be happy to share their knowledge (and binoculars!) to help you spot these magnificent birds during breeding and nesting season.



Cathedral Guides

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of experienced guides who are happy to share their knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for Ely Cathedral.

Our team of Guides, Welcome Volunteers and Visitor Services Assistants are always on hand to ensure you have an enjoyable experience while visiting Ely Cathedral and can answer any questions you may have about the building and the surrounding area.



Photos: Geoff Robinson, Simon Stirrup, Andrew Sharpe, James Billings



Tours at Ely Cathedral

Discover so much more about Ely Cathedral with a guided tour



Ely is widely acknowledged as one of the most significant cathedrals in Europe and features as one of the 'must see' buildings in the world. In more recent times Ely has gained global recognition as a prominent film location including Elizabeth: The Golden Age, The King's Speech and The Crown.

Information about our Tours

We offer daily Tower Tours and Ground Floor Tours. We also hold a number of Special Interest Tours at various times throughout the year.

Please check our website for times and dates of all our tours www.elycathedral.org

All tours can be booked in advance online. Please ensure you arrive at least 10 minutes before the start of your tour.

Please note: We may occasionally need to cancel a tour due to weather conditions or an unexpected closure.



Ground Floor Tour

1 hour - Various times - Daily

Enhance your visit with a face to face guided tour to discover more about the Cathedral's rich history, heritage and the people and events which have helped shape it over the centuries.



Octagon Tower Tour

1 Hour - Various times - Daily

Completed in 1342 you will climb 170 steps up two medieval stair cases across a roof gully and out onto the Octagon roof. This unique wooden structure and famous landmark is noted as one of the world's greatest feats of engineering.

Participants must be over 10 years old and require a certain level of fitness and mobility.



West Tower Tour

1 Hour - Various times - Daily

Following in the trail of the medieval monks and climb the 288 steps to the top of the West Tower for stunning views over the city and the surrounding fens.

Participants must be over 10 years old and require a certain level of fitness and mobility. Please note: West Tower Tours may be temporarily suspended if the weather is bad or if Peregrines are nesting.



Monastic Tour & Tea

Approx 2 hours (with the tea) - Various dates

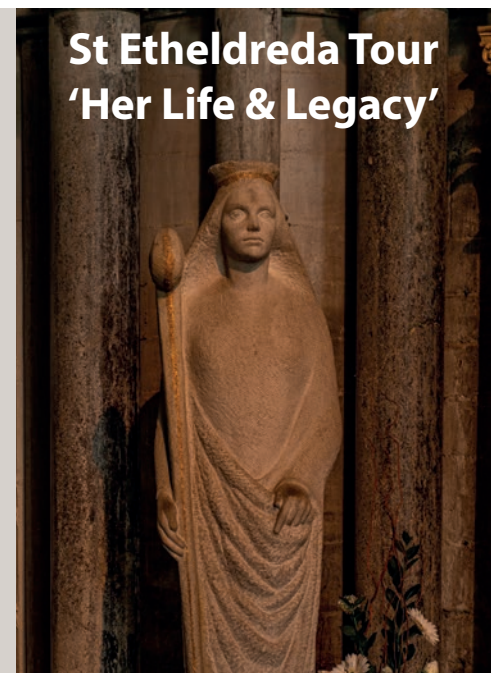
Discover the history of the Monastic precinct at Ely Cathedral, one of the largest collections of medieval Monastic buildings still in use.

This outdoor tour will bring to life the stories and use of these ancient buildings from when the monks lived here to present day. The tour will finish with afternoon tea and cake at our medieval Almonry Restaurant.

Tickets for the Monastic Tour & Tea does not include Cathedral Entry. A separate ticket will need to be purchased if you wish to visit the Cathedral.

1 Hour - Various dates

This new tour was introduced in 2023 to celebrate the 1350th Anniversary of Ely's foundation. The tour focusses on the remarkable and dramatic life of Etheldreda, from East Anglian Princess to Anglo Saxon Saint.



St Etheldreda Tour 'Her Life & Legacy'