



# Group Visits





*“I brought a group of visitors to Ely Cathedral last Friday and I just wanted to thank you for the welcome we received. The Guides were wonderful and brought the Cathedral alive for us. Without exception we all had a wonderful day.”*

**Arts4Kent / Heritage Travel**

# Welcome to Ely Cathedral

*Joyfully proclaiming the love of God in worship,  
outreach, welcome and care*

Ely Cathedral is widely acknowledged as one of the Wonders of the Medieval World, and continues to be a destination for pilgrims, visitors, large and small UK and international groups, offering something to interest everyone.

Ely is one of the smallest cities in the UK which makes everywhere easily accessible on foot. Many groups choose to combine a visit to Ely Cathedral with a visit to the Stained-Glass Museum, Oliver Cromwell's House and the Ely Museum.

Your group can admire the splendour of the Cathedral architecture, uncover its rich and varied history or simply enjoy moments of quiet reflection.

We also have a programme of regular exhibitions, and special events, including the Home & Garden Show and Christmas Fair.

There are local markets to enjoy plus independent shops. The Cathedral itself is surrounded by beautiful parkland and a picturesque riverside with restaurants, galleries and antique shops.

**Our dedicated group booking office will be happy to help you plan your day with us.**

**Contact us**

**Telephone: 01353 660359**

**Email: [sue.inman@elycathedral.org](mailto:sue.inman@elycathedral.org)**

**Website: [www.elycathedral.org/groupvisits](http://www.elycathedral.org/groupvisits)**



## Planning your visit

Our friendly and knowledgeable team is here to help you organise and plan your day. We are always happy to answer questions you may have and to discuss your visit in detail.

Please note that group bookings must be at least two weeks in advance. This will help us manage the number of visitors in the Cathedral and avoid clashes between your group, visiting schools and those taking part in our public programmes, services and events.

The size of your group should be a minimum of 15 people to qualify for the group rate. To book your visit, just complete and return the Group Booking Form on our website.

Upon receipt of your booking form, arrangements will be made for your group and a confirmation email with booking reference will be sent to you. Payment details can be found on the booking form.

The bookings office is open Monday to Thursday from 8.30am to 2.00pm.

## **Coach Parking**

There are coach drop off/pick up bays directly outside the main doors of the Cathedral (CB7 4DL). Free coach parking is located approximately 5 minutes from the city centre at Ellgia Football Club, Downham Road, Ely, CB6 2SH. There are a wide variety of food outlets, toilet facilities and a cinema at this location.

## **Toilets**

Accessible toilets are in the Processional Way, between the North Choir Aisle and the Lady Chapel.

## **Wheelchairs**

We advise you to bring your own wheelchair to the Cathedral, if possible. We do have a small number available on request, and you are required to read and sign to say you agree to our terms and conditions on arrival.

## **Accessibility**

Due to the age and fabric of the building, some of the floor surfaces can be uneven. We have adapted as much of the Cathedral as possible to make it more accessible for those with limited mobility. The west door entrance can be accessed by ramps. Wheelchair users can access most areas of the Cathedral ground floor. All areas are either flat or ramped, including the Lady Chapel and the Cathedral shop.

Should a pre-visit be helpful, please contact our Groups Coordinator who will be happy to arrange this for you.

## Cathedral Highlights



Considered a wonder of the medieval world, the Cathedral's Octagon Tower supports a unique wooden lantern made of 200 tons of English oak, covered with 200 tons of lead.



The **Nave Ceiling** - boarded and painted in the 19th century, begun by Henry Styleman Le Strange and, following his death, completed by his friend Thomas Gambier Parry. The figures were painted in situ and are larger than life.



The breath-taking **Lady Chapel** is the largest of its kind in the UK. Modern restoration respects its turbulent history with traces of the original rich decoration still visible.

# Tours & Experiences

## Ground Floor Tours

Uncover our rich history by joining one of knowledgeable tour guides on a pre-booked tour at ground level.

**40-minute highlight guided tour | 60-minute guided tour**

## Monastic Tours

On this outdoor tour, join our knowledgeable guides and discover one of the largest collections of medieval monastic buildings still in use.

**60-minute guided tour, and subject to an additional charge.**

## Octagon Tower Tour

A visit to Ely Cathedral would not be complete without a tour of the celebrated Octagon Tower, ascending 170 steps to the Medieval turrets.

**60-minute guided tour, and subject to an additional charge.**

## Student Group Tours

Language Students can immerse themselves in local culture and develop their language skills during one of our ground floor tours for young people aged 12-16.

**40-minute highlight guided tour | 60-minute guided tour**



# The Almonry Kitchen

We are delighted to be able to offer visiting groups catering services at the Almonry Kitchen, set within the Cathedral Gardens.

All products are homemade by the team of chefs and served by the friendly service team. There are several areas to suit different group sizes and reservations for up to 100 guests are available. The team are happy to look after those with specific dietary requirements, and there is level access and an accessible toilet.

Seasonal menus are available on request direct with the Almonry Kitchen. Booking is simple, please email with the date, time, number of guests and preferred menu option and the team will confirm your booking and organise payment:  
[almonry@cdc.events](mailto:almonry@cdc.events)

Please note that we do not permit, or have any facilities for food or drink to be consumed inside the Cathedral.



# The Cathedral Shop

Located in the Cathedral at the West End of the Nave, the Cathedral shop offers a range of souvenirs, in addition to giftware, jewellery and cards, many of which are sourced by local suppliers and crafts people.

The shop stocks a good selection of books covering a number of special interest topics, humour, children's books, cookery and history. It also has a wide selection of religious and theological books which are carefully chosen to represent key times in the ecclesiastical year.

*Please note that student groups within the shop are limited to 12 at any given time and must be supervised at all times.*

## Events

More information about the **Christmas Fair or Home & Garden** group visits is available via our website:  
[www.elycathedral.org/events](http://www.elycathedral.org/events)





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### Find us

Ely is located in the east of England, just 12 miles north of Cambridge. Main road routes serving Ely include the A10 and A142 (linking with the M11, A1 and A14).

Ely Cathedral's post code is CB7 4DL.