



Student Group Visits





“A visit to the Cathedral is one of the highlights of the programme and impressed with the tour guides in terms of explaining things clearly to the groups and making the tours engaging and informative.”

Cambridge Melchior College

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 young learners, juniors and young adults, offering something to interest all ages.

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

There are local markets to enjoy plus independent shops and cafes with the Almonry Kitchen offering pre-bookable packed lunches for picnics. The Cathedral itself is surrounded by beautiful parkland and a picturesque riverside with green space and restaurants.

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

Website: 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.

Enjoying the Cathedral Space

The safety and wellbeing of any group, remains the responsibility of the group lead. Each week, thousands of people travel to us as sightseers, pilgrims, worshippers and more. As a busy working Cathedral we ask that all student groups are supervised at all times, respecting other visitors, particularly those enjoying prayer or quiet reflection. Please do ensure your group are aware of those around them, that they keep their bags with them and please be mindful of noise levels.

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.

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

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

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.



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.

The Almonry Kitchen

We are delighted to be able to offer visiting student groups a pre-bookable packed lunch. These orders will enjoy a 10% discount when reserving with the Almonry Kitchen Team. Please contact almonry@cdc.events to reserve your lunches.





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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.