

Group Travel Guide





Welcome

Step into 900 years of history at Tewkesbury Abbey, one of the great abbey churches of England, offering a unique experience for visitors within a vast Norman building of national significance. It is home to the largest Romanesque tower in Europe, whilst its stunning interior, remarkable stained glass, medieval monuments, and long musical tradition reflect its origins as a powerful Benedictine abbey.



The Abbey is open daily and can be explored at your leisure or through guided visits led by experienced and knowledgeable Abbey guides, who bring the story of the Abbey vividly to life for visiting groups. We are delighted to work with group leaders to create personalised itineraries tailored to the interests, pace and access requirements of each group.

Admission to the Abbey for general visiting is by voluntary donation. The suggested contribution is:

Adult: £5, Family: £10

For pre-booked groups payment can be arranged in advance.

As a charity which doesn't receive any regular Government funding, we rely on the generosity of our visitors to look after our beautiful, ancient building. Thank you for your support.

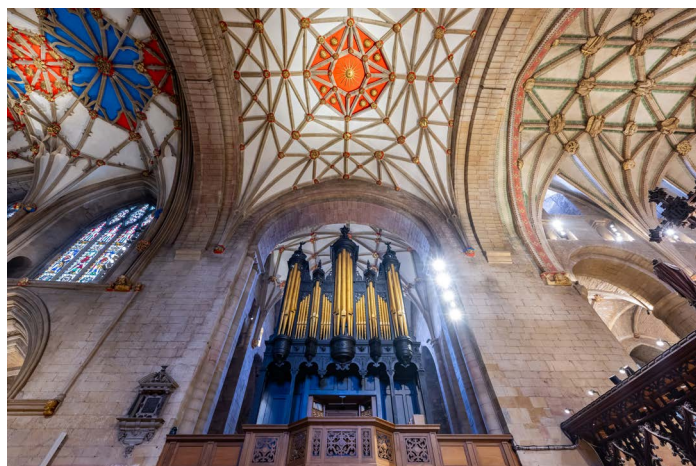
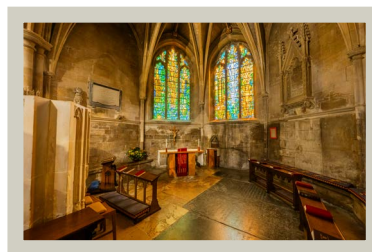
Regular Visiting Hours

Monday: Saturday: 9:30am – 4pm

Sunday: 12noon – 4pm

The Abbey diary is busy with regular services and events, so it is advisable that all group bookings are arranged in advance to avoid disappointment. We ask for two weeks' notice, where possible.

We look forward to welcoming your group to Tewkesbury Abbey.



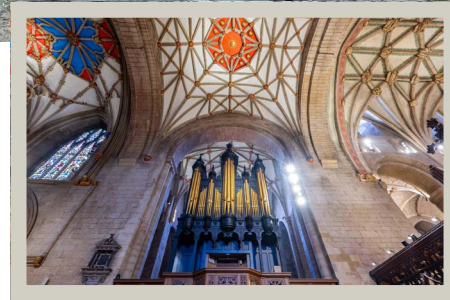
Fascinating history

Tewkesbury Abbey was founded in 1087 as a Benedictine monastery and quickly grew in importance and scale.

The Abbey is renowned for its soaring Romanesque nave, spectacular crossing tower and rich collection of medieval monuments, including one of the finest assemblages of aristocratic tombs in the country.

Having witnessed pivotal moments in English history, most notably the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 during the Wars of the Roses, the Abbey has a rich history to tell. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Abbey was saved by the people of Tewkesbury and has continued to serve as the town's parish church ever since.

The Abbey is famed for its stained glass, ranging from outstanding fourteenth century windows that are of international as well as national importance to the two stunning contemporary windows by Tom Denny.



Highlights of a visit may include:

- The soaring architecture of the Nave and collection of ceiling bosses
- The largest Norman tower in Europe
- Medieval tombs and chantry chapels
- The Milton Organ
- The Kneeling Knight
- A spectacular collection of medieval and contemporary stained glass
- The towering west door entrance – again the highest in Europe
- Strong connections with the Battle of Tewkesbury



Abbey tours

Our guided Abbey tours explore the rich history, architecture and stories of Tewkesbury Abbey from its medieval foundations to the present day.

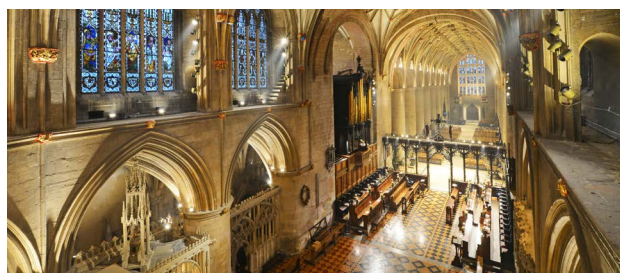
Tours are led by trained volunteer guides with a deep knowledge of the Abbey and its place in local and national history. Tours can be adapted to reflect the specific interests of your group, whether historical, architectural, musical or spiritual.

Abbey Tour

Duration: 90mins

Deep dive into the history and architecture of the Abbey, from its Benedictine origins and through its many transformations over 900 years. Learn about the Abbey's patrons, their tombs and memorials, and their links to England's monarchy including William the Conqueror, Henry VIII and the Dissolution, Henry VI, Edward IV and the Wars of the Roses. A must for architecture and history enthusiasts alike.

Price: £8pp minimum group size 6 people



Highlight Tour

Duration: 60mins

A perfect introduction for first-time visitors. Explore the Abbey's most remarkable features, from the soaring Norman architecture to its rare collection of medieval stained glass and hear some its stories from the past 900 years.

Price: £7pp minimum group size 6 people



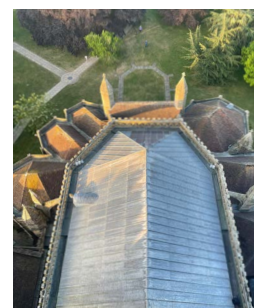
Tower Tour

Duration: 60 minutes

Scale the dizzy heights of Tewkesbury Abbey's unique tower (over 200 steps) and get the best view for miles around. Explore above ground areas, not accessible to visiting public, including the Lantern Chamber and Devil's Bridge.

The tower may not be suitable for all visitors and some restrictions apply – see website for details. Only children 8yrs + are permitted. In the event of poor weather and whilst the peregrine falcons are nesting, the tour will not ascend to the exterior summit of the tower, but instead substitute with further 'off-limits' areas.

Price: £10pp maximum group size 13 people





Worship & Music

Worship has been central to life at Tewkesbury Abbey for nearly 1,000 years. Services take place daily, and the Abbey is particularly renowned for its strong choral tradition.



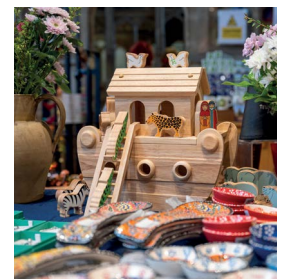
Groups are warmly invited to attend any regular service during their visit, such as concluding your day with Choral Evensong, offering a reflective and memorable end to your time at the Abbey.



The Abbey Shop

A warm welcome is waiting for you in the Abbey Shop, located in St James' Chapel within the Abbey. You will find a selection of books about the Abbey alongside a wide range of gifts, cards and souvenirs. Open daily during visiting hours.

Pre-booked group visits also benefit from a **10% discount** in the shop and Abbey Garden Café.





Food & Drink

The Abbey Garden Café is set within our visitor centre in the grounds of the Abbey. They offer a selection of home-made food including breakfast baps, lunch, cakes & scones, hot & cold drinks. Refreshments can be enjoyed in the café or in warmer weather, on the veranda and in the Garden.



We can also offer pre-booked catering or private dining for groups in either the café or our larger Parish Hall. All of our food is freshly prepared on site by our catering team.

Afternoon Tea Menu

Cream Tea

Scone, jam and clotted cream.

£6.50 per person

High Tea

Scone, jam and clotted cream, 2 portions of cake, sandwich choice and portion of quiche.

£16.50 per person



Sample Buffet Menu

Cold

Sandwiches with choice of fillings: egg, cheese, ham and tuna on brown and white bread; homemade quiche; sausage rolls; crisps and selection of 3 homemade cakes with tea and coffee.

Warm

Cold sandwiches choice of fillings: egg, cheese, ham and tuna on brown and white bread; warm chicken wings & chicken drumsticks; vegetarian cheese and potato pastries; homemade quiche, crisps and selection of 3 homemade cakes with tea and coffee.

Hot

Hot roasted chicken or pork rolls and vegetarian option served with homemade apple sauce and homemade cranberry sauce with salad and coleslaw; selection of 3 homemade cakes with tea and coffee.

Catering requires at least two weeks notice. The above menu is available for advance booking only, please feel free to enquire for any catering that isn't included in this menu. Pricing is available on request and subject to VAT. All these options are self-served, please enquire if you require any to be served.

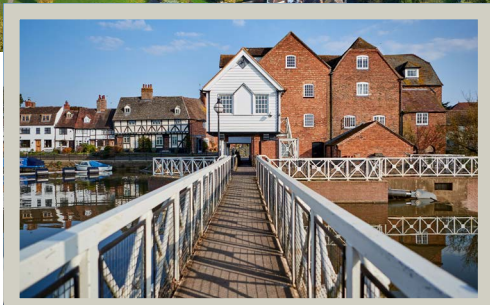




Why visit Tewkesbury?

Tewkesbury is a charming historic market town set at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Severn, offering an ideal destination for group visits. With its blend of heritage, independent shops, riverside walks and welcoming atmosphere, the town pairs naturally with a visit to the Abbey.

Tewkesbury Abbey dominates the townscape and provides a unique sense of place, while the surrounding streets retain their medieval layout and character comprising over 350 historic buildings and making Tewkesbury one of England's best-preserved medieval towns. The town is compact and largely level, making it easy to explore at a relaxed pace.



Explore the town of Tewkesbury

Groups visiting Tewkesbury Abbey may also enjoy:

- Historic timber-framed buildings and medieval streets
- The Tewkesbury Museum and The John Moore Museum
- Riverside walks along the Avon and Severn
- Independent shops, cafés as well as traditional pubs with local food & drink
- Seasonal festivals and events, including medieval and heritage-themed activities
- Retail at the new Cotswold Designer Outlet
- Tewkesbury Nature Reserve

Getting here

Coaches and parking

The main drop off point for visitors and tourists is the coach bay at The Crescent (see map). This is conveniently located next to Tewkesbury Abbey, meaning that visitors have a short walk to the Abbey across the lawns. An accessible step-free route takes visitors along Church Street into the main entrance of the Abbey via the Gage Gates.

Coach parking can be found at **Gloucester Road Car Park**. This car park is a five to ten minute walk from the Abbey. It has a good number of bays marked out specifically for coaches.

Car parks

There are plenty of independently operated car parks within easy walking distance of the Abbey – all are pay and display.

Car parks include:

- Gander Lane Car Park
- The Vineyards Car Park
- Gloucester Road Car Park
- St Mary's Lane Car Park



Accessibility

Tewkesbury Abbey aims to be as welcoming and accessible as possible. We recognise that not all access needs are visible and are happy to discuss individual requirements in advance.

There is level access to the Abbey via the main gates and the North Path, and wheelchairs are available in the Abbey to loan should you need one. The Abbey is equipped with ramps allowing access for wheelchair users to the majority of the building. Whilst the Abbey does not have its own Accessible Parking options are available nearby. Please adhere to the individual car park regulations, as they do vary.

Some areas of the Abbey have uneven flooring. Unfortunately, some parts of the Abbey are inaccessible to those with mobility problems; these include the Tower and the Upper Room.

For visitors with sensory needs you may want to check in advance if there are any events or rehearsals in progress on the day of your visit.

A disabled toilet can be found in the Visitor Centre.

The Abbey has a loop system, which is on throughout services.

We produce a large print copy of our weekly newsletters as well as both large print and braille hymn books available for use.



Booking your visit

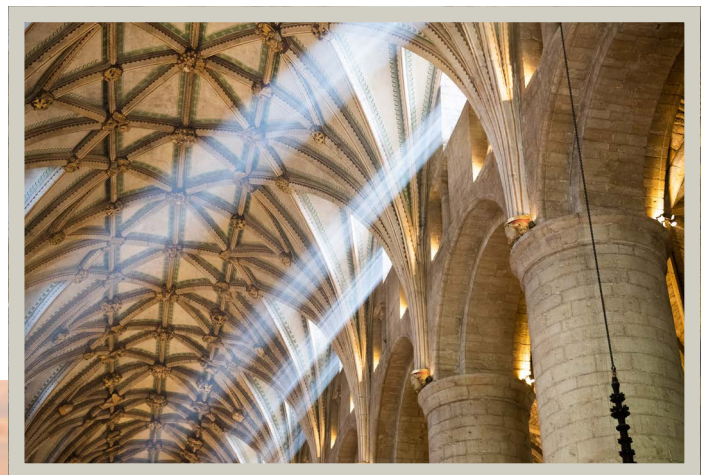
We would be delighted to welcome your group to Tewkesbury Abbey. To help us give you the best possible experience, **advance booking is advisable for all group visits**. We recommend getting in touch **at least two weeks in advance**, which allows us to check availability and tailor your visit to suit your group's interests and needs.

To book complete our group booking enquiry form on the Abbey website here:
www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/group-travel



If you'd like to discuss your plans or have any questions, please contact us at **info@tewkesburyabbey.org.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you plan a memorable visit.



Photography by: Jack Boskett