Windsor Castle:

Windsor Castle is one of the official residences of Queen Elizabeth the Second, the others being Buckingham Palace, Balmoral and Sandringham, although it is often said that Windsor is her favourite. She lives here and performs official duties during the month of April and the second week in June although she often chooses to stay here during many of her private weekends. The Royal Standard flies over the Round Tower of Windsor Castle when the Queen is in residence - at other times, the Union Jack flag flies in its place. Full details about visiting Windsor Castle visit the Royal Collection Website: [http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/)

An attraction at Windsor Castle is the chance to see Queen Mary’s Doll House. It is about 2m (7ft) high and is a miniature version of a classic grand Edwardian home. It includes electric lights, running water and even a working lift.

Windsor Castle is the largest inhabited castle in the world and it has the longest continuous occupancy of over 900 years. The origins of Windsor date back to the 7th century Saxon settlement of Windlesora however Windsor Castle was first built by William the Conqueror, following his invasion of England in 1066.
There is a free concert every Sunday afternoon during the summer months given by the Bands of the Household Division in front of the Jubilee Garden.

Garter Day

Every year in June the Royal Family take part in Garter Day ceremonies including a service in St. Georges Chapel, Windsor. King Edward the Third designed The Order of the Garter in 1348 in order to thank and reward his supporters of the war against the French and Scots. The Order of the Garter is a group made up of the king or queen and 25 knights which he/she appoints to the order.

St. Georges Chapel:
Changing of the Guard

During the summer (April - June) Changing of the Guard takes place daily. During the rest of the year Changing of the Guard takes place every other day although, Changing of the Guard never takes place on a Sunday. Check times by telephoning 020 7321 2233 or visit [http://www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk) for more accurate times.

Changing of the Guard is less commonly known as ‘Guard Mounting,’ which, is the correct term. The Guards are stationed at Victoria Barracks and march up to and from the Castle accompanied by the Guards Band playing traditional military marches as well as popular songs. The police and the Household Guards jointly provide the Queen’s security.
The Old Town

The old town is located immediately opposite the exit gate from the castle (Henry VIII Gate.) Several of the streets are cobbled and you can have a traditional English cup of tea at The Crooked House tearooms, which is Windsor's charming alternative to Italy's Leaning Tower of Pisa. Nearby is another of Windsor's claims to fame, which is the shortest street in Britain: Queen Charlotte Street.

In the picture below you can see Nell Gwynn’s House. Nell Gwynn was one of King Charles the Seconds favourite mistresses and she was believed to have lived in Pall Mall in Westminster or Church Street in Windsor in order to be close to the King. Unfortunately there is no concrete evidence to say that Nell lived in the house shown below but many believe she did. Nell had two sons with King Charles and his last words to his brother before he died were said to be “Let not poor Nelly starve”
Sir Christopher Wren, the famous English architect, who is best known for his work at St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, was asked whilst living in Windsor to design pillars for the entrance to the Guildhall, located on the highstreet. Wren calculated that the pillars were unnecessary for the support of the building and so to prove his point left a gap between the roof and the top of the pillar. The Guildhall is still standing today thus proving Sir Christopher Wren correct.

**The New Town**

As well as the old town in Windsor there are various shops to fulfil everyone’s needs. Windsor is home to over 150 shops including designer labels, high street stores, individual boutiques, souvenir and art shops, there are restaurants, cafes, bars and much more, something to suit everyone!

Windsor is home to the ‘Theatre Royal’, which hosts various shows of a variety of genres.
River Thames

Windsor is located next to the River Thames, another reason why William the Conqueror decided to build the Castle as it held an obvious strategic position on a steep hill overlooking the River. There are a number of self-drive motorboats and rowing boats for hire and there are many opportunities to go on boat rides to Boveney Lock and other places. There is evidence to suggest that boat rides on the Thames date back more than 100 years. Postcard pictures show rowing boats for hire lined up on the bank of the Windsor stretch of the Thames.

There is also the opportunity to feed the swans as they are in plentiful supply on the Thames. Mostly they are the queen’s animals and every summer a process known as Swan Upping takes place where all of the cygnets are tagged and the swans’ health is checked.

A bridge over the Thames connects Windsor to Eton, a charming town that is home to the famous private school.
Eton

Eton is a wonderfully quaint village located over the river Thames, a short walk from Windsor Town centre. Eton’s most famous attribute being the public school, Eton College.

Eton College

Eton College is the most famous public school in the UK and is well known worldwide. Both Prince William and Prince Harry attended Eton College amongst other high profile individuals.

You can visit the school and take guided tour of the building, an entrance fee is charged at the front gate of the school.

Eton College dates back to 1440; King Henry VI founded Eton College a year before the establishment of King’s College at Cambridge University. His statue stands in front of Lupton’s Tower as you enter the collage.
ROYAL WINDSOR RACECOURSE

Events at the racecourse run from April to October and a full list of fixtures can be found on the website: [www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk), along with other information. Although Windsor’s history with racing dates back as far as Henry VIII, the first official race meet at Royal Windsor was not held until 1866.

Ascot racecourse is only a short drive from Windsor. Ascot racecourse holds events all year round, the most famous being ‘royal ascot week’ running from Tuesday 17th June to Saturday 21st June. For more information regarding race fixtures and event dates see the website: [www.ascot.co.uk](http://www.ascot.co.uk). Each year over 500,000 race-goers visit Ascot race course, Royal Ascot being the most popular race meet in Britain, hosting over 306,000 visitors over the week.

Both courses are owned buy the Queen.
LEGOLAND WINDSOR

Legoland is situated just a 5 minute drive from the town centre of Windsor and offers a great day out for families and the young at heart. There are structured workshops, rides, shows and water fun activities.

Legoland hosts over 50 interactive rides and activities and the park is set in 150 acres of stunning park land, which, at one point was home to a safari park. There is also a soft play area to cater for the needs of younger children.

Miniland as shown above, uses Lego to recreate scenes from various places in Europe. It is estimated that around 35million pieces of Lego have been used to create landscapes from London, Paris and many other cities.

We very much hope you enjoy your stay at Alma House.

Useful Websites
Alma House: [www.almahouse.co.uk](http://www.almahouse.co.uk)
Windsor tourist information: [http://www.windsor.gov.uk](http://www.windsor.gov.uk)
Eton College: [http://www.etoncollege.com](http://www.etoncollege.com)
French Brothers boats: [http://www.boat-trips.co.uk](http://www.boat-trips.co.uk)
Royal Windsor Racecourse: [http://www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.windsor-racecourse.co.uk)
Royal Ascot Racecourse: [http://www.ascot.co.uk](http://www.ascot.co.uk)
Legoland: [http://www.legoland.co.uk](http://www.legoland.co.uk)
Theatre Royal: [http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalwindsor.co.uk)