

Henry VIII at Windsor Castle

Windsor's association with Henry VIII can be seen throughout the Castle. The following are among the highlights found within the Castle's precincts and the State Apartments.



St George's Chapel

A magnificent example of late-medieval architecture, St George's Chapel was completed during the reign of Henry VIII. It is home to the Order of the Garter, the oldest surviving order of chivalry, founded in 1348. Henry VIII was appointed a member of the Order in around 1495, at the age of four or five, by his father Henry VII. On his accession to the throne in 1509, Henry VIII automatically became Sovereign of the Order.



Burial place of Henry VIII

Henry VIII is buried in St George's Chapel alongside Jane Seymour, the king's third and favourite wife. A ledger stone in the Quire marks the entry to the vault in which he was buried in 1547.



Stained-glass window

An image of Henry VIII can be seen in the South Quire Aisle of St George's Chapel.



Henry VIII Gate, c.1511

The gate was re-constructed during the king's reign. Today it is one of the main entrances to Windsor Castle.

Inside the State Apartments



Armour of Henry VIII, c.1540

The armour was made in the Royal Armouries at Greenwich, which were established by Henry VIII in 1517. The armour is thought to be one of the last suits made for the king, who died seven years later. The king's impressive proportions were quite exceptional in the 16th century – the suit measures 132cm (52ins) around the waist and stands at a height of 1.83m (6ft).



Hans Holbein the Younger, *Derich Born*, 1533

This portrait was painted soon after Holbein returned to England from Basel in 1532. It was at this time that he painted a group of portraits of fellow Germans working in London, merchants and members of the Hansa Steelyard.

The 23-year-old Derich Born was a steel merchant and supplied Henry VIII's armourer with military equipment in 1536 for the suppression of the Pilgrimage of Grace.



Hans Holbein the Younger, *Henry Guildford*, 1527

Sir Henry Guildford was an eminent courtier and held several high offices in Henry VIII's household, including that of Comptroller (as indicated by the white staff of office he carries in this picture). He was elected Knight of the Garter in 1526 and is depicted wearing the gold collar of the Order.



Hans Holbein the Younger, *Thomas Howard*, c.1539/40

Thomas Howard, third Duke of Norfolk, was uncle to both Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard and was one of the most powerful men of his time. Holbein shows him holding the gold baton of Earl Marshal, and the white staff of the Treasurer, both senior positions in Henry VIII's household. He also wears the collar of the Order of the Garter. He was sent to the Tower for High Treason in 1546, but his execution was prevented by Henry VIII's death.



William Scrots, *Edward VI as Prince*, c.1546

Edward was born at Hampton Court on 12 October 1537 and was Henry's only legitimate son to survive infancy. His mother, Jane Seymour, died when Edward was only twelve days old. After the death of his father, Henry VIII, on 28 January 1547, Edward was crowned king at just nine years of age. He died six years later. This painting was probably completed not long before Edward's accession as king.



After Anthonis Mor, *Mary I*, c.1570

Mary I succeeded her half-brother Edward VI to the English throne in 1553. She was the only child of Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon. She is remembered for restoring Catholicism to England following its demise under her father and Edward VI. The original version of this portrait was painted to be sent to Phillip II of Spain in preparation for his marriage to Mary in 1554.



William Scrots, *Princess Elizabeth*, c.1546

This is the earliest single-figure image of the future Elizabeth I and was painted at the end of Henry VIII's reign. The Princess, Henry VIII's daughter with Anne Boleyn, is shown wearing a striking red dress trimmed with gold embroidery and an abundance of jewels. She is both regal and youthful, with striking red hair. The two books, one open on a table beside her and the other clasped in her hands, are symbols of learning, royal authority and Protestantism.