Alfred’s Final Journey

(approximately 1 mile walking, generally suitable for wheelchairs, allow 1 hour)

Start from the statue of King Edwin, over Market Lane towards the Cathedral Green.

Pass through the gates into the New Minster founded by Alfred’s grandfather, Edward the Elder. Alfred’s new building had taken over 10 years to build and included marble columns and a 40-foot dome. Return to the Main Minster entrance and continue past the statue of Alfred’s wife, Ethelburga. 

Continue straight at the junction into East Street. Turn left into King Alfred Place. Continue to the end of King Alfred Place.

Pass behind King Alfred’s statue in the open space ahead is the site of Alfred’s Final Journey: The Heart of the Ancient Capital.

King Alfred the Great

Alfred was born at Wantage in 849. He was to spend most of his life in the West Country. He was made a saint in 1120 and became the patron saint of England. He was canonized in 1970. 

A tour of King Alfred’s Winchester

Uncover the gripping history of his reign, from Wessex to the English and scholar earned him the title ‘the Great’ – an honour which matched that of Charlemagne. 

Wessex, Alfred was not expected to rule and so developed military strategies to fight back. In 871, he led a campaign to drive the Danes out of Wessex, followed by a successful campaign in East Anglia. He was also a patron of the arts, creating a centre of learning which was to influence later generations. 

In 863, John Melvill rediscovered the site of Hyde Abbey and claimed to have found King Alfred’s tomb. The results were kept and considerable doubts were left. After he had been confirmed as the site of King Alfred’s tomb, excavations were conducted from 1938 to 1939. 

In 1991, the site of King Alfred’s burial was excavated and his skeleton was discovered. It was concluded that the skeleton was that of King Alfred. 

In 2001, the remains of King Alfred were reburied in the Abbey.

Continue on the left side of the Abbey church and to the end of the street.

Alfred refounded Winchester in the 9th century using the Roman marks the site of Alfred the Great’s medieval tomb.

Continue to the end of King Alfred Place.

Pass behind King Alfred’s statue in the open space ahead is the site of Alfred’s Final Journey: The Heart of the Ancient Capital.

The open space ahead is the site of Alfred’s Final Journey: The Heart of the Ancient Capital.

The Corn Exchange Discovery Centre. Further on is the entrance to the Abbey Gardens.

The Theatre Royal is the Corn Exchange Discovery Centre. Further on is the entrance to the Abbey Gardens. 

A local hero, playing King Alfred during a time of great danger and the danger of the country, was to be the subject of a new work by the writer of the novel, the story of King Alfred between 871-993, his life and relations.

Bring your walk around King Alfred’s Winchester alive! Uncover the gripping history of his reign, from Wessex to the English and scholar earned him the title ‘the Great’ – an honour which matched that of Charlemagne.

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Walk Routes

Alfred’s Final Journey

The Heart of the Ancient Capital

The Upper City

Walk up the glade and through the churchyard to Jewry Street. Turn left into the Abbey grounds and continue around the base of the Abbey to the entrance to the Abbey.

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This walk included into three loops as you can choose how much to do. Set out from the famous statue of King Alfred standing at the entrance to the Abbey and Alfred’s Final existing site in Hyde Abbey Gardens.

CITY WALLS

A tour of King Alfred’s Winchester

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Turn right and follow the river walk.
The road is the City Mill River Itchen.
The Heart of the Ancient Capital

CITY WALK: A tour of King Alfred's Winchester

First built of stone in the 3rd century AD, the wall was started by the Roman Emperor Galba and completed by Vespasian. It is said to have first been built by St Swithun, the Bishop of Winchester in 997. The first section to be completed was the east gate, where the Bishop's Palace now stands, and the Roman wall was extended in the 10th century, when the Church of St Swithun was founded by Wulfnoth, a local nobleman. In the 11th century, the Bishop's Palace and the Roman wall were restored and extended.

The first building of the medieval city is on the site of a Roman town. It was a small settlement with a church, a castle and a few houses. The castle was destroyed in the 11th century, but the church survived and became the cathedral. The cathedral was enlarged and extended over the centuries, and is now the largest cathedral in England.

The Bishop's Palace was the official residence of the bishops of Winchester. It was the home of the bishop and his family, and was used for meetings and official functions. It was extended and remodelled in the 13th century, and became the centre of the city.

The High Street

The High Street is the main shopping street in the city. It runs from the cathedral to the castle, and is known for its shops, cafes and restaurants. It was first recorded in the 12th century, and was the site of many important events in the city's history.

The Castle

Winchester Castle was the home of the Norman kings of England, and was rebuilt in the 12th century. It was a major power base for the English kings, and was used as a base for military campaigns.

The Minster

The Minster is the cathedral church of Winchester. It is the largest cathedral in England, and is the seat of the Bishop of Winchester. The cathedral was founded in the 7th century, and was rebuilt in the 12th century. It was dedicated to St Swithun, the Bishop of Winchester.

The City Walls

The City Walls are the defences of the city, and were built in the early 12th century. They were the result of a decision by the bishops of Winchester to fortify the city in order to protect it from invasion.

The Upper City

This is the area above the River Itchen, and includes the suburbs of the city. It was developed in the 16th and 17th centuries, and includes many fine houses and buildings.

The Lower City

This is the area below the River Itchen, and includes the old town of Winchester. It was developed in the 11th and 12th centuries, and includes many fine churches and buildings.

The City Gate

This is the main entrance to the city, and was built in the 13th century. It was the site of many important events in the city's history, and was the site of many battles and sieges.

The Bishop's Palace

This is the official residence of the bishop of Winchester. It was first built in the 12th century, and was extended and remodelled in the 13th and 14th centuries. It was the home of the bishop and his family, and was used for meetings and official functions.

The Cathedral

This is the cathedral church of Winchester. It is the largest cathedral in England, and is the seat of the Bishop of Winchester. The cathedral was founded in the 7th century, and was rebuilt in the 12th century. It was dedicated to St Swithun, the Bishop of Winchester.

The City Museum

This is the city museum, and houses a collection of artefacts and objects that tell the story of the city's history. It includes exhibits on the city's archaeology, its architecture and its art.