



ROYAL ASCOT

2023 GUIDE

RACING POST



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CROWNING GLORY





Editor Nick Pulford looks forward to Royal Ascot 2023

Royal Ascot is always a special occasion, but in Coronation year it will be just a little different. The new king is on the throne and there will be enormous interest in the handover of one of the great traditions of the royal calendar.

The 2023 meeting falls just over six weeks after the coronation and will be one of the first joint-engagements for King Charles and Queen Camilla. The eyes of the world will be watching when they lead their first royal procession down the straight mile and take their places in the famous Royal Enclosure to watch the afternoon's sport.

It is one of the occasions when we have become used to seeing the royal family at their most relaxed. There are formalities to the dress and protocols, but there is also a great sense of fun and enjoyment. A royal runner or two only adds to the excitement.

The people will come from every corner of the realm, some arriving by Rolls-Royce or helicopter, many in packed trains and on coach parties. Friends and families will get together. There will be picnics in the car parks and on the lawns. Champagne and caviar. Colourful fashion from the classic to the outlandish. Chatter and cheering, smiles and singing.

Just like the vast crowds, the racecourse will be dressed to impress. It is a special place to be in June.

The racing is something else. Based on Racing Post Ratings, 14 of the top 25 performers in Britain and Ireland last year ran at Royal Ascot, headed by the brilliant Baaeed. Their number was boosted by top Australian sprinter Nature Strip.

Eight Group 1 races pepper the week, starting with the rapid burst of the Queen Anne, King's Stand and St James's Palace Stakes inside the opening two hours. Heritage handicaps, high-class two-year-old races and great staying contests add even more competition and variety.

Thirty-five races are now the norm and they present a remarkable concentration of quality in five days of racing. Each day has something special. Put them all together and you have the most magical week.

ROYAL ASCOT ESSENTIALS

DATES

- Royal Ascot 2023 takes place over five days from Tuesday June 20 to Saturday June 24

TICKETS

- **Royal Enclosure** Available only to members and their guests, or non-members with a hospitality guest day badge
- **Queen Anne Enclosure** £90 Tue & Wed, £99 Thu-Sat
- **Village Enclosure** £85 Thu-Sat
- **Windsor Enclosure** £49 Tue & Wed, £65 Thu, £69 Fri & Sat
- For more details, see pages 8-15

BY CAR

- **From London & the North** M4 Junction 6 onto the A332 Windsor bypass and follow the signs to Ascot
- **From the West** M4 Junction 10 to the A329(M) signed to Bracknell and follow the signs to Ascot
- **From the South & East** M3 Junction 3 onto the A332 signed to Bracknell and follow the signs to Ascot
- **From the Midlands** M40 southbound, Junction 4. Take the A404 towards the M4 (Junction 8/9). On the M4 head towards Heathrow/London. Leave M4 at Junction 6 and follow the A332 Windsor bypass to Ascot
- More than 8,000 car parking spaces are available and pre-booking is advised. Car Park 8 costs £40 per day

BY TRAIN

- South Western Railway runs a frequent service to Ascot from Reading, Guildford and London Waterloo. The average journey time is 27 minutes from Reading and 52 minutes from Waterloo. The railway station is a seven-minute walk from the racecourse

TV DETAILS

- All 35 races will be broadcast live on ITV, with 30 hours of live coverage across the week. The Opening Show preview programme will be shown daily at 9am on ITV4 and coverage of the racing will start at 1.30pm
- Sky Sports Racing will also broadcast live from Ascot on each of the five days





THE ENCLOSURES

From the Royal Enclosure and its strict dress code to the more relaxed Windsor Enclosure, Ascot has four distinct areas to suit different pockets and tastes



ROYAL ENCLOSURE

Where is it? This is the most exclusive area with the best views from the grandstand and by the winning post. Members have access to Level 4 of the grandstand and the Royal Enclosure Gardens.

How much does it cost? Membership is by invitation only. Members can book badges for themselves and their guests, and non-members can gain access with a hospitality guest day badge.

What's the vibe? There is a sense of formality and decorum but plenty to enjoy for racing and fashion watchers from the best seats in the house.

What's the dress code? Men are required to wear black, grey or navy morning dress

which must include a waistcoat and tie, a black or grey top hat and black shoes. Women must wear formal daywear with a hat and the various rules include: dresses and skirts should be of modest length defined as falling just above the knee or longer; dresses and tops should have straps of one inch or greater.

Hang out at the Mill Reef Bar. Named after the famous 1970 Coventry Stakes winner, this bar is located in a quiet area near the entrance from Car Park 1.

Do it in style at the Parade Ring Restaurant, located on Level 2 of the grandstand and regarded as the jewel in the crown for fine dining at Ascot. Three Michelin-starred chef Simon Rogan takes the helm this year. Prices from £2,099pp.



QUEEN ANNE ENCLOSURE

Where is it? This is the premier public enclosure right at the heart of the action, offering access to the parade ring, pre-parade and ground floor of the grandstand. Guests can see the horses before and after each race and there are excellent views of the racing and royal procession from the trackside lawns and grandstand viewing steps.

How much does it cost? Advance tickets are £90 for Tuesday and Wednesday, rising to £99 for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

What's the vibe? While there is a strict dress code, there is the feel of an English garden party with plenty to interest racing aficionados and occasional racegoers alike. One of the highlights is the communal singing at the bandstand in the heart of the enclosure after racing each day.

What's the dress code? Guests are required to dress for a formal daytime occasion. Men must wear a full-length suit (with jacket and trousers of matching material) with a collared shirt and tie. Women must wear a hat, headpiece or fascinator at all times. Strapless and sheer dresses and tops are not permitted; nor are jeans or trainers.

Food and drink A wide range is on offer from street food to elegant walk-up restaurants. Highlights include champagne bars by Moët & Chandon, the 1768 Grill and Tea Rooms and popular on-the-go eateries such as Baos At The Bandstand and Sussex Charmer Cheese On Toast.

Eat at The Bandstand Kitchen & Bar with its wide range from Ascot brunch to bar snacks and pastries. Located in the heart of the action at the rear of the grandstand with outdoor seating.

Hang out at the Stewards' House Cocktail Bar, which serves a classic selection and has a relaxed feel with a lawned area looking down over the bandstand.

Do it in style at The Gallery. With a first-floor view of the track and a private balcony, this restaurant offers formal yet relaxed dining with a three-course luncheon menu from £549pp.



THE ENCLOSURES

