

Leeds Castle



In 500 acres of beautiful Kent parkland, sits the glorious Leeds Castle – a remarkable survival of a moated medieval castle complex, with an unparalleled 1920s interior.

Over the centuries the castle has withstood sieges; hosted the medieval Royal Courts of Europe; been a prison for witches, Kings and prisoners of war; a munitions store and a hospital; and welcomed some of the key figures in English history, from Henry VIII to Winston Churchill.

First and foremost, the castle has always been a palace to entertain and impress, with every generation leaving its mark. Today's interiors are the result of the massive refurbishment by top European designers throughout the 1920s and 30s for its last private owner, Lady Baillie.

She turned the castle into her weekend bolthole for the rich and famous, with wonderful collections of art and antiques, exotic animals in the parkland, and every modern convenience, with under floor heating and art deco onyx bathrooms. As you move through the grand state rooms, you are walking in the footsteps of Lady Baillie's houseguests – from Hollywood royalty like Douglas Fairbanks, David Niven and Errol Flynn, to the crowned and uncrowned heads of Europe.

Today the castle is owned by a charity, whose aim is to remain true to Lady Baillie's greatest wish, that the castle remains a welcoming place for all, "where people meet, and things happen."

Whatever the weather, there is always plenty to see and do at Leeds Castle from the moment the gates open including tours of the historic castle, falconry, gardens, wildlife talks, the maze and much more. Please check our website for daily activities, timings and details on accessibility at Leeds Castle.



Key Themes:

- 1930s
- Medieval period
- Henry VIII
- Lady Baillie
- Birds
- Wildlife
- Gardens and Grounds
- Shopping
- Eating and drinking
- Private events

Annual Special Events :

- Fireworks Spectacular
- Christmas at the Castle and Market
- Car shows
- Open Air Classical Concert
- Open Air Theatre
- Open Air Cinema
- Garden Tours
- Wildlife Talks and Walks
- Tours of the Castle

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Leeds Castle

Open all year round

GROUNDS OPEN AT 10AM DAILY

	Apr to Sep	Oct to Mar
Castle opens	10.30am	10.30am
Last admission	4.30pm	3.00pm*
Gates Close	6.00pm	5.00pm*
Shops	10.00am - 5.30pm	10.00am - 4.00pm

Castle Closed: 13 July, 9 & 10 November and Christmas Day 2013

Latest entry to castle is 30 minutes after last admission time. Due to space restrictions pushchairs cannot be permitted inside the castle but a buggy park is provided. Prices valid until 31 March 2014.



Ticket Prices:

Adults
£21.00 — Group £14.25

Senior Citizens/Students & Visitors with Disabilities
£18.50 — Group £13.25

Children (4-15yrs)
£13.50 — Group £10.25

Private guided, audio and specialist group tours are also available at a small additional cost.

Getting to Leeds Castle:

Leeds Castle is located just off Junction 8 of the M20, midway between London and the Channel Ports, with excellent links to the UK motorway network.

By Road: 7 miles east of Maidstone, Junction 8 of the M20 motorway just 1 hour from London, 30 minutes from the Channel Tunnel and Channel Ports. Dartford River Crossing 30 minutes. Clearly sign posted from all routes - following the brown and white tourist signs.

IMPORTANT - Satnav Users If you are using a satellite navigation system, then please follow the brown and white tourist signs once you reach the A20 as your navigation system may incorrectly direct you to a private entrance where you will be redirected. Alternatively please use the following post code: ME17 1PB

By Train—Southeastern runs frequent train services to and from Bearsted Station and a coach shuttle service run by Spot Travel is available from the station. Taxis are also occasionally available. However, if you are bringing a bicycle on the train, or fancy a three mile walk, you may prefer to use Hollingbourne Station which is closer. Please be aware the station is unmanned and down a deserted lane, lone travellers might prefer Bearsted Station.

Contact details for trade enquiries:

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Groups Department
01622 767865
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