Spynie Palace
Explorer Quiz

Explore the buildings and woods around the palace with this fun, fact-finding mission. Remember to ask a steward if you need any help.

1. Which gate was the original main entrance to the palace?

2. How many murder holes are there over the east gate?

3. Look at the carvings over the tower entrance. What is on the unicorn's back?

4. How many floors did the tower house once have?

5. King James IV was entertained by ‘singing maidens’ at Spynie in 1505. How long ago is that?

6. Can you draw the man’s face carved into the wall of the great hall?
Need a clue?
1. Think about the points of the compass - north, south...
2. Look up as you go through the east gate. Can you see holes above you? People could once have thrown or poured things on you from above!
3. It's a shield, which an animal on it. Can you tell what animal?
4. Look at lines of holes in the walls. These once held beams which supported the floors.
5. You'll have to do the maths!
6. Look high up, next to a window in the great hall. It's name is a bit liquidy!
7. Look in the woods around the palace. Is this one up to you?
8. Can you find... a rowan tree? People once thought they kept away witches!
9. Can you find... an oak tree? They can live to be 500 years old.
10. The Bishops of Moray had their coats-of-arms carved on parts of the palace. What would your shield be? Can you think of symbols about your name, where you live or things you like?
11. Can you find... a sycamore tree? Their seed pods fly like helicopters.

Spynie Palace used to sit on the edge of a sea-loch. Which gate did people go through to get to it?