

Groups and Guiding at Edinburgh Castle



Guiding guidelines

We've created these simple rules to ease congestion and visitor flow, and to make sure everyone enjoys their visit. Thank you for being part of history and keeping Scotland's story alive for generations to come.

- Guiding is not allowed within the rooms of any roofed buildings at the castle, this includes remote guiding from outside, and the following buildings:
 - Scottish National War Memorial
 - St Margaret's Chapel
 - Great Hall
 - Royal Apartments
 - Honours of Scotland Exhibition
 - Crown Room
 - Military Prisons and Prisons of War Exhibition
- Please be considerate to other guests and guided groups on site.
- Lead your group through gateways as quickly as possible and avoid guiding while in queues.
- Keep your group together for the duration of the tour.
- Under 16s must remain with an adult at all times.
- We don't allow the use of open audio loudspeakers at the castle, but feel free to use wireless transmission whisper systems.
- If anyone in your group needs to use the toilet before the visit, the entire group must return to the esplanade together.
- Please arrange for your group to gather outside of the castle, on the esplanade, at the end of their visit.

On your visit

- A mobility vehicle is available for people with accessibility requirements. It picks up from the castle esplanade, next to the ticket scanning point, and drops off at Crown Square. If someone in your group requires this service please make yourself known to a member of staff on arrival. Please be aware that this service doesn't run over lunchtime and there can be lengthy queues in the summer months.
- Our three gift shops offer a wide range of high-quality gifts, books and souvenirs including exclusive Edinburgh Castle ranges that you won't find anywhere else.
- Enjoy light snacks, hot meals or food on the go in the Redcoat Café or visit the castle tea room.
- Toilets are located in the Lower Ward and at David's Tower. If using the toilets before entering the castle, please re-gather your group on the esplanade before going to the ticket scanning point.

Getting here

Edinburgh Castle is at the top of the Royal Mile, 15 mins walk from Waverley Station and Princes Street.

Opening times

1 Apr to 30 Sept: 9.30am to 6pm
1 Oct to 31 Mar: 9.30am to 5pm

We're open all year, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Last tickets sold 1 hour before closing. Opening times are correct at time of publication, but may be liable to change.

Contact us

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Castle areas

Esplanade



- This is the group gathering point.
- Please distribute all admission tickets to your group here without blocking entry and exit for other visitors and vehicles.
- Make your way to the Portcullis Gate **1** for ticket scanning and castle entry.
- Guiding should only start after this point, and not in the Lower Ward area.

Guiding Area A



- Please stay on the left side of the path to avoid obstructing other visitors.
- Feel free to stop at any point in this area.
- Do not lead your group up the Lang Stairs **2**.
- Groups should refrain from crossing over and looking at the views and cannons at this time. There are much better places for that later on during their visit.

Guiding Area B



- Through Foog's Gate **10** a right turn and up a few steps will bring you to Area B.
- Groups cannot go to St Margaret's Chapel **11**, with or without a guide. But they're very welcome to visit on their own once your official tour is over.

Guiding Area C



- This is Crown Square, where your guided tour should finish.
- Access it via the West Side and South West corner of the Scottish National War Memorial **21**.
- Before leaving your group, please remind them of the photography restrictions in the Scottish National War Memorial, the Crown Room and the Honours of Scotland Exhibition.

Key

- Portcullis Gate
- Lang Stairs
- Argyle Battery
- One o'Clock Gun
- National War Museum
- Governor's House
- New Barracks
- The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards Regimental Museum
- Museum of the Royal Scots and the Royal Regiment
- Foog's Gate
- St Margaret's Chapel
- Mons Meg
- Dog Cemetery
- Argyle Tower
- Forewall Battery
- Half-Moon Battery
- David's Tower
- Royal Palace
- The Honours of Scotland: The Scottish Crown Jewels
- Great Hall
- Scottish National War Museum
Scottish National War Memorial
- Prisons of War Exhibition
- Dury's Battery
- Military Prison

Facilities

- Toilets
- Shop
- Restaurant/Café
- Tickets
- Audio Guide
- Visitor Centre

Areas

- Esplanade
- Guiding/stopping permitted
- No guiding/stopping in these areas

