



ENGLISH HERITAGE

ATTRACTIONS

In touch with our customers

AUTUMN/WINTER 2018



Whitby Abbey

MAJOR MAKEOVER FOR POPULAR GROUP HAUNT

We've embarked on a £1.6 million improvement project at Whitby Abbey to inspire your groups to delve deeper into the history of this hauntingly beautiful site – and help them uncover its links with Bram Stoker's Count Dracula.

The ruins of the abbey stand high on the headland above the seaside town of Whitby. Over 150,000 people visit the abbey each year, and many groups make a bee-line for this popular North Yorkshire destination.

By spring 2019 there will be even more for your groups to enjoy. We're opening a new museum and café, making improvements to the site's landscaping, and upgrading the visitor entrance and the shop.

continued on page 2

INSPIRING DAYS OUT FOR GROUPS

Stay up to date with our most popular properties.

IN THIS ISSUE:



PAGE 3

Re-capture past pleasures at Walmer Castle.



PAGE 5

See a Victorian rarity at Brodsworth Hall.



PAGE 6

Can we tempt you to a tailor-made visit?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We're looking forward to welcoming you and your groups to our sites.

Enjoy exploring them, knowing that your visits help keep the story of England alive for future generations.

Step into England's story

A BETTER WELCOME FOR YOUR GROUPS



You will notice the difference from the moment your group arrives. At key points around the atmospheric site we are creating more space, better facilities and access and adding interpretation.

Groups arriving by foot from the busy fishing port will have tackled the famous '199 steps', and they can enjoy a well-earned cup of tea and a bite to eat in the new café. The main admissions point by the Abbey Headland car/coach park and coach drop off point is also being spruced up.

We're transforming and softening the expansive cobbled courtyard which provides an approach to the visitor centre (housed inside the 17th-century Banqueting House). We are carefully lifting and re-laying the historic cobbles and adding a line of trees down the centre of the courtyard to guide your group members in. We're also adding contemporary seating in the courtyard and planting herbs such as sage, dill and lavender to recreate the scents of a medieval monastic infirmary. It will allow members of your party to sit and pause to imagine medieval life at the abbey – and to take in the dramatic views of the ruins before exploring further.

Inside the visitor centre there will be a more spacious shop, which we're extending to fill the ground floor. This will help people flow through the space

more easily, and help prevent queues at peak times. And our new museum space and exhibition will explore thousands of years of history to really give your groups something to sink their teeth into! Beautifully lit displays will house rare and internationally significant collection objects, spanning from the early Bronze Age through to the occupation of the Cholmley family in the late 1600s.

We're also installing outdoor interpretation throughout the open green spaces of the headland to give an insight into the abbey's history and to show how the ruins have inspired writers and artists like Bram Stoker, JRR Tolkien, JMW Turner and Sir Walter Scott.

We give free 20 minute tours to pre-booked groups, covering the abbey's history from dinosaurs to Dracula. We also offer discounted medieval mead tasting sessions. You can complete your day with a visit to Scarborough Castle, just over a half hour's drive along the coast from Whitby Abbey, or venture inland with a scenic drive across the North Yorkshire Moors National Park to Rievaulx Abbey.



Main image: Whitby Abbey
Above: Impressions showing how the exhibition will look

Whitby Abbey, Whitby,
North Yorkshire YO22 4JT
Tel: + 44 (0)1947 603568
Email: whitby.abbey@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/whitbyabbey

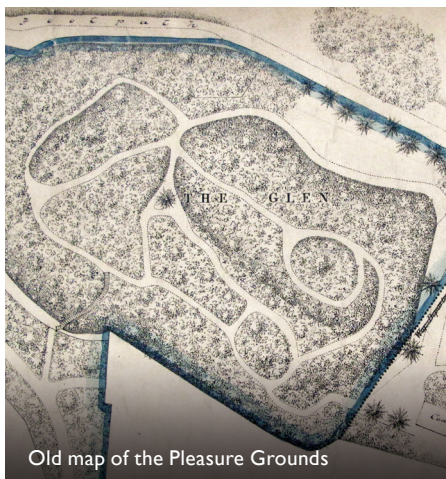


PAST PLEASURES RE-DISCOVERED

A £1.35m Heritage Lottery Fund grant has provided us with a key to unlock lost areas of Walmer Castle's award-winning gardens for visitors to enjoy.

During 2019 we are restoring historic paths and planting in Walmer's previously inaccessible Pleasure Grounds, introduced in the early 19th century when Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger was in residence at the castle in his role as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Other famous Lord Wardens include the Duke of Wellington, who died at the castle in 1852, and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Pitt lived at Walmer during the Napoleonic Wars, and he was joined there by his niece Lady Hester Stanhope



Old map of the Pleasure Grounds

until his death in 1806. A woman ahead of her time, she acted as hostess for her unmarried uncle, entertaining political and military notables of the day.

Lady Hester is also credited with helping to turn Walmer from a garrisoned castle into a country home fit for a Prime Minister. She also helped to create the Pleasure Grounds, intended for enjoyment rather than function. They consisted of a wildflower meadow known as the Paddock, a circling woodland walk and a former quarry transformed with planting and called the Glen. We are reinstating these Pleasure Grounds as they would have appeared in her time and re-presenting the surrounding woodland to more closely resemble its historic layout.

The castle and grounds will be open as usual while work is underway, and your groups can watch its progress and enjoy Walmer's other garden highlights. They include the garden created to mark the Queen Mother's 95th birthday, complete with a pool, pavilion and the roses she loved. The recently restored and re-planted Boardwalk Garden – flanked by deep and colourful herbaceous borders

and a 'crinkle crinkle' hedge – is also not to be missed.

Inside the castle, Wellington's bedroom, including his campaign bed and the armchair in which he died, has been refurbished and conserved, and the rooms where the Queen Mother once stayed every year are on view.

Your group members should also look out for a miniature portrait of Lady Hester on display in Pitt's Library. After her uncle's death she left England for good in 1810 and built an extraordinary career as an independent female traveller in the Near and Middle East. In the portrait hanging at Walmer Castle, she is depicted in a bright turban and robe – it is said that she lost her entire wardrobe in a shipwreck off Rhodes in 1812, and spent the rest of her life wearing male Turkish dress.

Walmer Castle and Gardens
 Kingsdown Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7LJ
 Tel: + 44 (0)1304 364288
 Email: walmycastlegroupbookings@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/walmycastle

A SHROPSHIRE STAR



Be sure to plan a visit with your group to Stokesay Castle in 2019, when we will have completed work to revitalise the garden – the final phase of our improvement programme at the finest fortified manor house in England.

The garden should be ready in time for spring, and this work comes hot on the heels of a new interpretation project which has breathed new life into Stokesay's story.

Inside the house, which has scarcely been altered since it was built in the 1200s, your groups will enjoy a more 'tactile' experience to discover the purpose of the unspoilt rooms and get to know the people who once lived there.

Outside, our garden improvements will complement our recent transformation of a former potter's cottage into a welcoming 40-seater tearoom. Already

on the map as a great watering hole for groups, we offer a range of locally sourced, fresh and seasonal food, with an emphasis on traditional Shropshire fare. Best of all, pre-booked groups of 11 or more receive a 10% discount on the menu on the day of their visit. Plus each group's coach driver and tour leader can enjoy a free lunch worth up to £10.

Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms,
Shropshire SY7 9AH
Tel: + 44 (0)1588 672544
Email: stokesay.castle@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/stokesaycastle



A TALL STORY?

The key you can see in the garden, shown above, is a permanent feature at Stokesay Castle. It's a reference to a legendary tale of two giants who kept a huge oak chest full of gold coins hidden beneath the castle. The giants were brothers. One lived at the castle, the other lived on top of a nearby hill. There was only one golden key to the chest. When either wanted to count their treasure they threw the key to each other across the valley. One day it fell short, and sank into the murky depths of the castle moat where neither giant could find it. It's said the treasure is still buried at Stokesay...

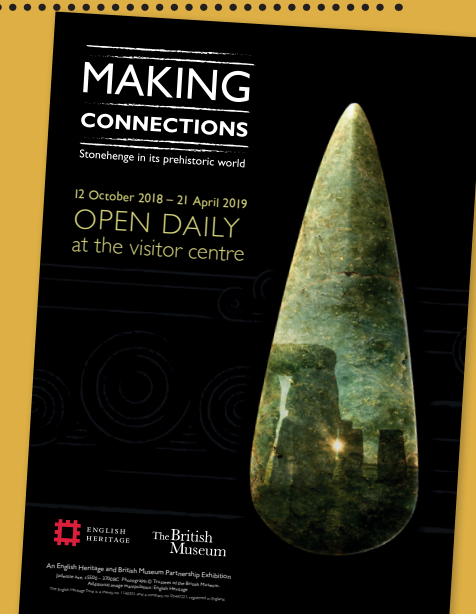
MAKING CONNECTIONS STONEHENGE IN ITS PREHISTORIC WORLD

Catch our current special exhibition at Stonehenge before it closes on 21 April 2019.

The exhibition is part of a collaboration with the British Museum and it will help your group members discover how our prehistoric ancestors interacted with each other by making and sharing objects. Remarkable finds brought together for the very first time - from a green axe to a gold cup, and from a flint dagger found in the Fens to a bronze

horn used during rituals - shine a light on the interconnected lives and cultures of the people who lived at the time of Stonehenge.

Stonehenge, Nr Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7DE
Tel: + 44 (0)370 333 0604
Email: bookstonehenge@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge





Brodsworth Hall's rare game larder

GAME LARDER REVEALED FOLLOWING RESTORATION

A newly restored game larder in the award-winning gardens of Brodsworth Hall is opening to visitors for the first time. It's another highlight for groups to enjoy at the South Yorkshire property – a grand country pile that tells the story of Victorian life above and below stairs.

The octagonal larder was used for storing the spoils of the shooting season, but it was in a sorry state before restoration work was carried out. Our curatorial and gardens teams have used historic maps and photographs to make sure the larder and the surrounding gardens look as they would have when they were created in the late 19th century.

The larder was built under shady trees with louvred sides for ventilation, and raised on supports to deter vermin. Inside, game was hung from rods and there was a small table for the head keeper to complete his records. Kitchen staff would have walked to the larder to fetch game such as pheasant, grouse and hare to be prepared for the table

It remains on its original site and we've planted pine trees, strawberry trees and two thousand snowdrops on each side of the path leading to it. Inside, your group members will find new interpretation panels suspended from the same rails that were once used to hang the game. The panels tell the story of the lives of the hall's owners and staff - from game keepers and gardeners to kitchen maids and cooks – and an oral history speaker outside the larder allows visitors to hear former staff talking about plucking pheasants and deterring poachers.

Brodsworth Hall was built for Charles Sabine Thellusson in the 1860s as a country home suitable for entertaining, complete with gardens and estate.

Shooting was the family's main leisure activity in winter, and it formed a large part of their social life at Brodsworth. They employed up to ten gamekeepers to rear game birds and organise shoots. The gamekeepers were provided with rent-free cottages, as well as suits, guns, and allowances of ale and cheese.

**Brodsworth Hall and Gardens,
Brodsworth, Doncaster,
South Yorkshire DN5 7XJ**
Tel: + 44 (0)1302 722598
Email: [brodsworth.hall@
english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:brodsworth.hall@english-heritage.org.uk)
www.english-heritage.org.uk/brodsworth



AT YOUR SERVICE

TAILOR-MADE TOURS AND MORE FOR YOUR GROUP

Do you like to find something really special for your group to enjoy on a trip out? Something set up especially for them and no one else? Then look no further. At many of our sites, we can tailor-make a visit just for you. Here are a few ideas to whet your appetite:

1 WHOLE DAY TOURS

At Witley Court and Gardens, we already offer a range of special interest tours – from exploring the superb grounds and formal gardens with the head gardener to arts, archaeology and history. But we're also happy to host your group for tours on winter weekdays when the site would normally be closed – giving them special behind the scenes access.

And at any time of year we can extend your group's experience to last a whole day. We suggest we give your group a tour of the house and grounds in the morning, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, one of our knowledgeable guides can give you an illustrated talk, using nostalgic photographs and original objects to bring Witley Court's glittering past to life.

Witley Court and Gardens, Great Witley,
Worcestershire WR6 6JT
Tel: + 44 (0)1299 896636
Email: witley.court@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/witley

2 AN ELIZABETHAN EXPERIENCE

Many groups pre-book a guided tour of Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Gardens in Warwickshire to make their visit more memorable. But we can also arrange another activity to give a new meaning to the phrase 'behind the scenes' - your group can learn about historic fashion by watching Queen Elizabeth I get dressed.

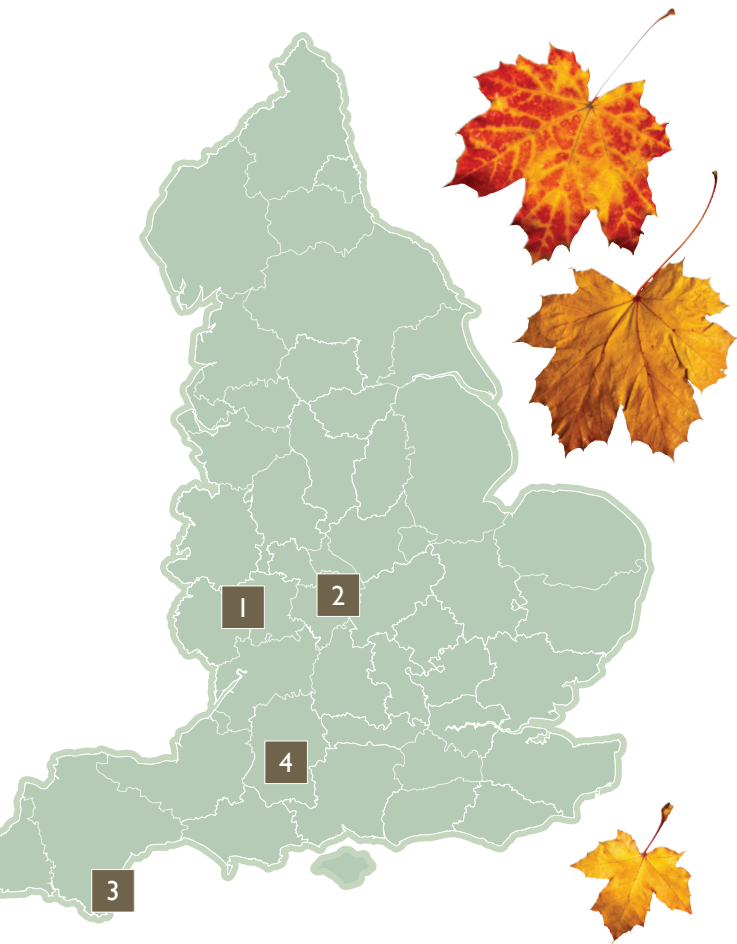
One of our team will strip off - whilst sparing your group's blushes of course – to demonstrate the intricacies of Elizabethan clothing.

Or hold your very own falconry day – we can arrange for expert historic falconers to meet your group at the castle on selected dates.

Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden,
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1NG
Tel: + 44 (0)1926 852078
Email: kenilworth.castle@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/kenilworth

.....
• If you have your own ideas for a special group outing, then we'd love to hear from you - and wherever possible,
• accommodate you. Please contact the site of your choice to discuss your requirements.
•
.....





A ROYAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT OSBORNE

2019 sees the two hundredth anniversary of the births of both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Join us as at Osborne on the Isle of Wight as we mark the bicentenary with a new display and trail opening at the couple's seaside home in late spring.

Whenever possible the royal couple spent their birthdays at Osborne. Celebrations were very much a family affair, complete with performances of poetry and music by the royal children, celebratory dinners and group photographs. And of course there were presents, too - Victoria and Albert both celebrated their birthdays by filling rooms with flowers and impressive arrays of gifts.

The new display will take inspiration from the gifts Victoria and Albert gave to each other. The collection at Osborne includes over 70 of the birthday presents the royal couple exchanged throughout their life and marriage, and each one gives an insight into their tastes and interests. A new trail will guide visitors through this unique collection, taking them around the house and out into the garden and estate.

Osborne, East Cowes, Isle of Wight PO32 6JX

Tel: + 44 (0)1983 200222

Email: osborne.house@english-heritage.org.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk/osborne



3 SET SAIL TO A CASTLE

Your groups can have a castle all to themselves on an after-hours tour at Dartmouth Castle in Devon.

Once our other visitors have left, we can show you how to fire a cannon, give you a taste of historic entertainment with costumed re-enactors, and even provide refreshments. We can also arrange for your group to take a trip along the River Dart to arrive at the castle by boat – a fantastic way start your special evening.

Dartmouth Castle, Castle Road, Dartmouth,
Devon TQ6 0JN

Tel: + 44 (0)1803 833588

Email: dartmouth.castle@english-heritage.org.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk/dartmouth

4 STAND INSIDE THE STONE CIRCLE

We can offer your group the once-in-a-lifetime experience of standing inside the stone circle at Stonehenge outside of normal opening hours. You will need to book well in advance for this trip.

Stonehenge, Near Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7DE

Tel: + 44 (0)370 333 0605

Email: bookstonehenge@english-heritage.org.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge

GETTING TO KNOW ELTHAM PALACE AND GARDENS



Emma Parkes (far right) from Group Travel World Magazine and Jane Thomas (far left), Stonehenge and Travel Trade Marketing Manager for English Heritage pictured with attendees in the circular Art Deco entrance hall at Eltham Palace.
© Harley Denham, Group World Travel

We recently hosted readers of leading industry publication Group Travel World on a fam trip to Eltham Palace and Gardens. The GTOs enjoyed a morning tour of the Art Deco millionaire's mansion and the Great Hall of the Tudor palace before lunch, followed by an afternoon tour of the gardens.

Eltham Palace and Gardens, Court Yard,
Eltham, London SE9 5QE
Tel: + 44 (0)20 8294 2548
Email: eltham.palace@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/elthampalace

A WORLD CLASS COLLECTION

Head to Ranger's House in Greenwich to discover a world-class collection of more than 700 works of fine and decorative art, including many rare and sometimes quirky pieces.

We've recently re-presented the collection to better showcase the exceptional craftsmanship of its creators. It includes ornate medieval jewellery, Gothic sculptures, Italian ceramics, Renaissance paintings, 18th-century French furniture and British portraits. It was all brought together by diamond magnate Sir Julius Wernher in the late 19th century.

The collection fills 11 rooms of the fine Georgian mansion, and it features many extremely rare and unique pieces. A series of 'star objects' helps visitors to discover some of the highlights. Your group can see a 2,000-year-old gold earring in the shape of a Greek goddess, an exquisitely-carved pendant in the shape of a skull from around 1500 and an enamelled jug depicting the Greek god Triton.



A rare memento mori pendant from the collection

-
- Pre-booked guided tours are available
- for a small extra charge. Refreshments
- or lunch can be provided on request.
-

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The recent changes in data protection law have presented us with the opportunity to make sure we are only sending you what you really want to hear from us.

We have created a form which you can complete to update your preferences, which you can find online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/traveltrade to complete and return to us. Or if you prefer, email us at traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk with Keeping in Touch in the subject line and telling us whether you are a GTO or representing a commercial organisation and we will send you the appropriate form.

Ranger's House The Wernher Collection,
Chesterfield Walk, Blackheath,
London SE10 8QX
Tel: + 44 (0)20 8294 2548
Email: eltham.palace@english-heritage.org.uk
www.english-heritage.org.uk/rangershouse

CONTACT US

📍 English Heritage Travel Trade Department, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND

☎ +44 (0)117 975 1349 ✉ traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk