



ENGLISH HERITAGE

ATTRACTIONS

In touch with our customers

WINTER 2019

REACHING ACROSS HISTORY

The stunning new footbridge at Tintagel Castle soars 55 metres above the sea, offering spectacular views of the north Cornish coast and step-free access to the headland for the first time in centuries.

The castle's medieval residents walked across a land bridge between the two halves of the castle. Around five hundred years ago the land bridge collapsed, but the new bridge recreates that link in sensational fashion.



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INSPIRING DAYS OUT FOR GROUPS

Stay up to date with our most popular properties.

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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

VISIT IN 2020

The bridge consists of two independent cantilevers, each around 33 metres in length, which reach out and almost touch in the middle. At the centre, a toe-tingling gap of just 40mm gives a glimpse of the water moving directly below, as well as a sense of transition between the mainland and the island and between the present and the past.

Tintagel Castle is one of the most spectacular historic sites in Britain, and it has been linked with the tales of King Arthur since the Middle Ages. Built in the 1230s and 1240s by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the castle ruins stand among the remains of a much earlier stronghold, where Cornish rulers lived and traded with far off shores.

The remains of Richard's castle stand both on the mainland and on the jagged headland. The two halves were once linked by a strip of land that gave rise to the castle's name - the Cornish 'Din Tagell', meaning 'the fortress of the narrow entrance'.

Until now, visitors could only reach the castle remains on the island by climbing a steep set of stairs. The new footbridge provides a step-free option onto the island, allowing more people to explore all parts of the castle.

We've introduced timed ticketing to manage the flow of visitors, so pre-booking is now essential for all groups. You can find practical tips to help you make the most of your visit on our web pages.

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Step-free access opens Tintagel Castle to more visitors



The bridge re-joins the island and mainland



There's a toe-tingling gap in the middle!

WARTIME ROLE MARKED IN DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY

Dover Castle's place in the history of the Second World War will be commemorated in 2020 as we mark the 80th anniversary of the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day.

In late May and early June 1940, inside a network of underground tunnels cut into the White Cliffs beneath the castle, Vice Admiral Ramsay and his staff were working tirelessly to rescue British and Allied troops from the harbour and beaches of Dunkirk. Against all the odds, 338,000 were saved, and today, your groups can learn more about this momentous event in the very tunnels where they made their mark on history.

For the remainder of the war, Dover was a key naval base and coastal fortress. In the castle, hundreds of servicemen and servicewomen worked tirelessly to defend the Strait of Dover and the south-east coast. They worked radios, telephone exchanges, plotted the positions of enemy ships and aircraft, fired coast defence and anti-aircraft guns, cared for casualties in an underground hospital and helped to plan for the invasion of Europe in 1944.

On weekdays, before the castle opens, we offer Operation Dynamo Tunnel Tours for pre-booked groups of 15 to 30 to discover the story of Dunkirk. Afterwards they can explore the



The Operation Dynamo Experience

Underground Hospital, with its recreated operating theatre and wards.

A series of events will mark these two momentous anniversaries, the highlight of which will be the World War II weekend on 23-25 May. The castle's role in the Dunkirk evacuation will be a central theme and visitors will experience the courage and spirit of a nation at war as the castle reimagines its place at a time of the most terrible danger. We will be offering pre-booked groups a 15% discount, so book early to secure your place.

Why not register to receive our bi-monthly e-newsletters to keep abreast of our anniversary plans? Email us at travel.trade@english-heritage.org.uk.



World War II Weekend

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ROMANCE REIGNS AGAIN AT KENILWORTH'S LOVE GARDEN

It's been ten years since we opened our unique Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth Castle. Using archaeological evidence and a rare contemporary first-hand account, we were able to closely replicate the original layout and features of the garden created by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester to impress – and perhaps to woo – Queen Elizabeth I during her 19-day visit to Kenilworth in 1575.

Dudley spared no expense in his bid to win Elizabeth's affection, and the one-acre pleasure garden was his trump card. It drew inspiration from the latest formal gardens in Italy and France and was a delight for the senses. Beautiful birds sang out from the aviary, the scent of vibrant roses, carnations and stocks lingered in the air, and juicy plump strawberries could be picked and savoured.

The garden was lost during and after the English Civil War, but in 2009 we recreated its glories for modern visitors. A decade on, we've rejuvenated the garden in a £70k project to mark the 450th anniversary of Elizabeth's visit. Our gardens team have re-laid paths, replanted flower beds and added new flourishes.

An oak gate now stands where Elizabethan courtier Robert Langham – whose account we used to help with the recreation – may have secretly come and gone to sneak a peek at the garden while the queen was out hunting.

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Your groups can visit the garden as part of a day out at Kenilworth Castle. To complete your day, be sure to:

- Find out more about the royal love story at the exhibition in the Elizabethan gatehouse
- Climb Leicester's Tower, created by Dudley for Queen Elizabeth I
- Take in the Norman keep and medieval great hall, a favourite residence of early Tudor kings
- Pre-book a guided tour and enjoy discounted refreshments in the tearoom – ask for details when booking.





Book a tour of the Elizabethan Garden



The original garden layout has been closely recreated

BACK TO THE BRONZE AGE AT BEESTON

New for you to explore at Beeston Castle in Cheshire is a Bronze Age roundhouse, recreated by a team of more than sixty local volunteers.

A ground-breaking piece of experimental archaeology, the roundhouse took more than six months to build using authentic tools and archaeological evidence from Beeston and the Bronze Age settlement at Must Farm in Cambridgeshire.

The roundhouse will help your group members appreciate what life might have been like for Beeston's prehistoric

inhabitants. It stands within the castle's 40 acres of woodland park, which is open to visitors and home to a variety of wildlife - from foxes and peregrine falcons to buzzards and bats.

No visit is complete without a walk up the hill to the medieval keep, where your group will be rewarded with wonderful views over the Cheshire plains.

This year there are also new toilet facilities close to the visitor centre and Sandstone Café.



Volunteers building the roundhouse at Beeston

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HIDE AND SEEK

Take your group to Boscobel House in Shropshire next summer when we'll be opening improved facilities, a redesigned garden and new landscaping at this hidden gem of a site, famed as the place where King Charles II hid from Cromwell's troops after the Battle of Worcester in 1651.



Your group can see the priest-hole in the attic of the black and white farmhouse where the king was concealed for a night and another built into the chimney stack – an escape route into the garden.

And in an adjacent field there's a descendant of the original oak tree where Charles peered down on Cromwell's troops from the safety of its branches. It will be joined by up to 40 more oaks we will be planting as part of the landscaping project.

We will also be introducing new life into the farmyard in the form of a pig, sheep, chickens and ducks, plus adding improved interpretation and a new walking trail to nearby White Ladies Priory.

We're keen to welcome your group to Boscobel House and are happy to arrange a bespoke tour to fit your schedule. We can also arrange pre-booked discounted refreshments at our café for groups of 11 or more, including light lunches and cream teas, and there's a pre-bookable coach parking space too.

Close to the M54 and M6 and not far from Ironbridge, it's an ideal stop-off if you're on a journey through the West Midlands.

Boscobel House and the Royal Oak, Brewwood, Bishop's Wood, Shropshire ST19 9AR

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BE OUR GUEST

We are extending an invitation to visit Whitby Abbey in North Yorkshire or Walmer Castle and Gardens in Kent, where we will be hosting fam trips early next year in partnership with Group Travel World magazine.

We'd like to show you the improvements we've recently made at both of these popular sites. Each visit will include free refreshments and guided tours for GTOs and a guest. Contact us for dates and details – email us at traveltrade@english-heritage.org.uk, using 'Fam Trips 2020' as the subject line.



TAKE AIM FOR BRODSWORTH HALL

Be sure to visit Brodsworth Hall and Gardens to see the striking new planting that's part of our on-going restoration of the fabulous 18-acre grounds at this Victorian country pile.

Head Gardener Dan Hale and his talented team of gardeners and 35 volunteers grew all of the 12,000 bedding plants used to recreate the 100-metre Edwardian Target Garden, which had been turfed over for many years. It's an intricate pattern of paving and colourful planting to one side of a narrow strip of grass called the Target Range and was originally designed to be admired by houseguests as they waited their turn at archery practice.

"Brodsworth Hall's formal gardens are effectively a series of rooms, with a different focus in each. They are High Victorian gardens with Edwardian features woven in," says Dan. "Like many great houses, Brodsworth would have had

an army of gardeners caring for it before its decline. But happily, it is now approaching something like its original level of care thanks to our volunteers, who we simply couldn't do without.

"Since English Heritage took over Brodsworth Hall in 1990, we've restored many of the Victorian elements, including the fern dell, topiary and a flower garden with 24,000 plants. Now we are focusing more on the Edwardian areas and will soon be clearing and replanting the Eye Catcher – a folly on the top of a bank at one end of the Target Range – as well as the Ladies' Garden, containing the roses that Brodsworth's last resident, Sylvia Grant-Dalton, loved."

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Brodsworth Hall has just been awarded Gold in the 2019 Yorkshire in Bloom awards and it is included in Garden News magazine's recent round-up of the best 100 UK gardens to visit. Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden and The Home of Charles Darwin, Down House in Kent also feature.
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A new special exhibition is showcasing 150 years of personal photography at Stonehenge.

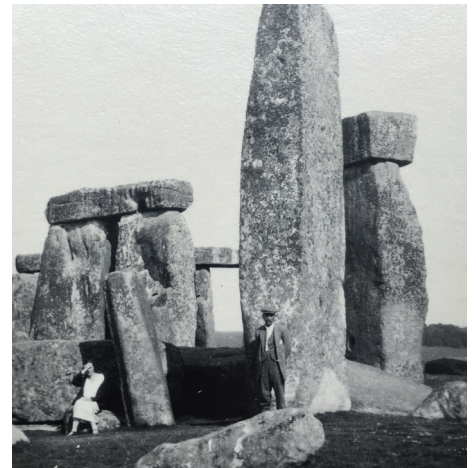
2018 marked the 100th anniversary of Stonehenge being gifted to the nation, and to celebrate we asked the public to send in their photographs. We were inundated with remarkable snapshots of visitors at Stonehenge in years gone by, and until August 2020 we're presenting the best of them at 'Your Stonehenge: 150 years in personal photos'.

This special exhibition is running alongside our world-class permanent display in the visitor centre. It includes archaeological treasures, fascinating insights into prehistoric life and a 360-degree virtual

experience offering the chance for your groups to stand inside the stone circle – before or after seeing the real thing!

Group admission to Stonehenge operates on a timed ticket system and must be pre-booked.

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STIMULATE YOUR SENSES

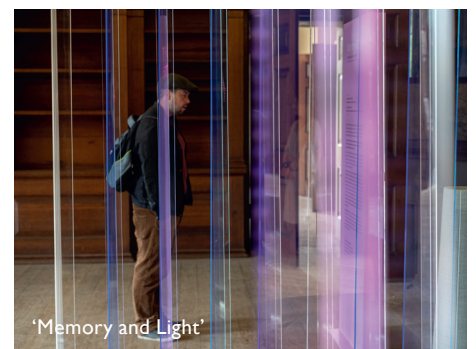
If your group is in the north east of England before the new year, take the opportunity to visit Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens near Newcastle to experience a beautiful contemporary installation by world-renowned composer Arvo Pärt and UK designers Arup.

'Memory and Light' is a multi-sensory installation of music, light, colour, sound, texture, materials and forms, located in Belsay Hall's wood-panelled library. Group members can sit on a viewing and listening bench beside a transparent

curved harp-like screen to experience the composer's words and his music.

There's plenty more to see at Belsay, including the castle and the outstanding 30-acre Grade I listed gardens, famed for their magnificent magnolias and rhododendrons as well as pretty formal plantings and the dramatic quarry garden. Pre-booked seasonal garden tours are available for a small additional charge.

'Memory and Light' runs until early January 2020.



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