This resource pack has been designed to help teachers plan a visit to Carisbrooke Castle, which provides essential insight into the defences and life in a medieval castle. Use the timeline in the classroom to help students understand the history of Carisbrooke Castle.

Get in touch with our Education Booking Team
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Don't forget to download our Hazard Information Sheets and Discovery Visit Risk Assessments to help with planning:

• A Carisbrooke Carry On: How to Survive and Stay Alive
• Who Lives in a House Like This: Castle Life From the Anglo Saxons to the Victorians

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AD 998 – 1009 A Saxon burh (fort) was built on the hilltop at Carisbrooke by the Saxon population to defend against the Viking raiders on the Isle of Wight.

C. 1066 Baldwin de Redvers probably built the motte-and-bailey castle.

C. 1070 – 36 A motte and bailey castle was added to the motte-and-bailey castle.

1158 The Spanish Armada sailed into Southampton Water.

1199 – 1200 The French landed on the Isle of Wight and besieged Carisbrooke Castle. The siege failed when the French commander was killed by Peter de Heynoe’s arrow.

C. 1200 The gatehouse was restored and became the first home of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum.

1258 Elizabeth I’s cousin, Sir George Carey, became captain of Carisbrooke Castle.

1263 Countess Isabella de Fortibus inherited Carisbrooke Castle. Isabella made the castle much bigger and built many new buildings.

1327 The Hundred Years War between England and France began.

1335 - 36 Two drum towers were added to the main gatehouse.

1377 The French landed on the Isle of Wight and besieged Carisbrooke Castle. The siege failed when the French commander was killed by Piers Gaveston’s arrow.

1397 – 1402 Sir George expanded the castle again, this time into a huge artillery fortress. He built ramparts, ditches and artillery bastions around the castle.

1523 Henry VIII began building forts and castles along the southern coast of England and the Isle of Wight.

1597 – 1602 Sir George expanded the castle again and built a huge artillery fortress. He also completed a new keep and artillery bastions around the castle.

1609 Sir George extended the castle buildings, built a new mansion house, added bastions and probably created the large barbican.

1642 The English Civil War began.

1648 The Spanish Armada sailed into Southampton Water.

1660 Restoration of Charles II.

1723 Carisbrooke Castle became the base of the Isle of Wight Artillery Militia.

1837 Queen Victoria was crowned.

1896 Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria’s daughter, became the governor of the Isle of Wight.

1901 The gatehouse was restored and a new entrance to the castle was added.

1913 Princess Beatrice died.

1959 The entrance to the castle was closed to the public.

1967 Queen Elizabeth II opened the new visitor centre at Carisbrooke Castle.

1971 Queen Elizabeth II opened the new visitor centre at Carisbrooke Castle.

1973 The castle was opened to the public.

1990 The castle was renamed Carisbrooke Castle and Edward’s Lodging was restored and reopened.

2001 The gatehouse was re-opened and new windows were installed.