



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
EDUCATION

KS1–2

KS3

## DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

### Dover Castle

This guide has been designed to give teachers everything they need to know about our expert-led Discovery Visits at Dover Castle. Choose from two sessions in which students can uncover the fascinating story of the people who lived and worked at the medieval castle or step

inside the Wartime Tunnels to break secret codes and ciphers.



GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

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- ✉️ [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk)
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Share your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](#)

Step into England's story

# WELCOME

This guide for Dover Castle has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on a Discovery Visit at the site. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, download the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**. Here you can also find a ready-made Risk Assessment for your Discovery Visit and general Hazard Information for the place you are visiting.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via [bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk) or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

## ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is recommended for.



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# EXPERT-LED DISCOVERY VISIT

## KNIGHTS, FEASTS AND GARDEROBES

**KS1–2**
**KS3**
**Recommended for**

KS1–KS3 (History,  
Drama, English)

**Learning objectives**

**WHAT:** understand what life was like for the people working for Countess Eleanor de Montford, who was acting as the castle's Constable in 1265.

**HOW:** handle replica artefacts, use costumes and role-play, and explore the Great Tower at Dover Castle.

**OUTCOME:** students will draw supported conclusions about the way people lived during the medieval period, and compare this to our lives today.

**Duration**

1 hour 10 minutes



Students taking part in the Knights, Feasts and Garderobes Discovery Visit at Dover Castle.

**DISCOVERY VISITS**

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences outside the classroom with quality learning. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, they enable students of all ages and abilities to meet characters from the past, role-play or handle intriguing objects.

**KNIGHTS, FEASTS AND GARDEROBES DISCOVERY VISIT**

What was life like for the lords and ladies who lived at the castle and for those who served them? Find out on an interactive tour of the Great Tower at Dover Castle including lessons on courtly language and behaviour, role-play and object handling.

To see this Discovery Visit in action, watch our YouTube video:  
<https://youtu.be/QZUHmLlePyM>

**PRIOR LEARNING**

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our [Schools page](#)) to introduce students to the key features of a castle and the type of people who would have lived and worked there during the medieval period.
- Use the Timeline resource in the Teachers' Kit to develop students' chronological understanding.
- Discuss the similarities and differences between life in the medieval period and life now.

# EXPERT-LED DISCOVERY VISIT

## SECRET CODES AND CIPHERS

KS1-2

KS3

### Recommended for

KS2 and KS3 (History, Maths)

### Learning objectives

**WHAT:** understand the significance of the Secret Wartime Tunnels, how they were used and the work that was carried out there during the Second World War.

**HOW:** use mathematics and problem solving skills to complete a code breaking exercise and explore the Secret Wartime Tunnels.

**OUTCOME:** students will empathise with the people working in the Secret Wartime Tunnels and gain a working understanding of the important role that Dover Castle played during Second World War.

### Duration

1 hour 10 minutes

### DISCOVERY VISITS

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### SECRET CODES AND CIPHERS DISCOVERY VISIT

The castle played an important role in Second World War, in the planning of 'Operation Dynamo' and the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940. It also became a top secret headquarters. Find out more about the work carried out inside the Secret Wartime Tunnels at Dover Castle by breaking codes and completing a secret mission.

To find out what you can expect from this Discovery Visit, watch our YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/wyOM80IIBYM>

### PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our [Schools page](#)) to introduce students to the history of Dover Castle during the Second World War, including the important role it played in the planning of Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of Dunkirk.
- Develop students' chronological understanding and remind students where the Second World War features on a timeline.



Students working with the Discovery Visit leader in the Wartime Tunnels to crack secret codes.