

Battle of Hastings — Frequently Asked Questions

Tickets

Do I need to pre-book tickets?

The Battle of Hastings is by far our most popular event of the year, and on occasion tickets for the event have sold out. We strongly recommend pre-booking to avoid possible disappointment on the day.

Can I book over the phone?

Unfortunately, we're unable to take bookings over the telephone at the moment.

How will my tickets arrive?

Your ticket will be emailed to you at the time of booking. Make sure you check your junk folder if the email does not arrive shortly after booking.

Is there a member's discount?

Yes, English Heritage members will receive a discounted ticket price. If you are a member please remember to bring your English Heritage Membership card with you.

I am a life member of English Heritage. Do I still need a ticket?

Life members and up to one guest (one adult or two children) enjoy free entry to the event, however do still need to reserve a ticket owing to the capacity of the event in the event of tickets selling out.

Is there a concessions or senior citizen's price?

We offer concession tickets with a further discount to senior citizens and those holding a valid student card. There are also free tickets for carers.

Do children need to pay?

Children under the age of 5 are free of charge. Tickets are needed for those aged 5-17 years. Persons aged 18 and over pay the adult price.

What happens if I cannot attend?

Unfortunately, due to the high demand for tickets, they are non-refundable and not interchangeable.

Will refunds be offered if the event is cancelled due to poor weather conditions?

If English Heritage has to cancel the event before the advertised start time then full refunds will be offered.

I am a member of CADW/Historic Scotland/CSSC. Can I attend for free?

English Heritage corporate members, holders of OVP passes, CSSC members and English Heritage non-working staff are welcome to attend at the same rate as English Heritage members. Please select an Associated Organisation ticket.

· **I am a stallholder/re-enactor and wish to take part in the event. Who do I speak to?**

The re-enactment is performed by selected groups who we work with during the event, and we are not able to accommodate individual re-enactors. If you are a member of a re-enactment group and wish to take part, your group leader/co-ordinator will need to contact our events team to discuss your group taking part. If you are a stall holder and wish to have a stall at the event, you will also need to contact our events team. Please send all such enquiries to events.team@english-heritage.org.uk

Parking

· **Will there be car parking?**

Car parking will be available in special event parking located on Powdermill lane. Please follow road signage leading to the event parking fields. It is necessary to walk between the event parking and the site, please follow the directions from our car parking team and event signage. Your booking is for the event only and does not guarantee a car parking space, which may carry an additional charge if you are required to park off site in a public car park.

Because of the volume of visitors to the event, we strongly recommend you consider using public transport. Battle train station has good connections to Hastings, Kent and London. If arriving by train, make sure you access the site via the normal gatehouse entrance and station is roughly a 15 minute walk from do not attempt to enter via Powdermill lane, as this road will be very busy and there is no pavement.

· **I am a coach driver. Where can I park?**

Coach parking is available, and is located at the top of the town in the Rother District Coach Park, off Market Road to the north of Battle High Street.

· **Will I be able to park in the standard Abbey car park?**

During the event the Abbey car park will be reserved for Blue Badge holders and others with access needs.

What you can see and do at the Battle of Hastings

· **What is the start/end time of the event?**

The start time is 10:00am and the end time is 5pm. We recommend arriving earlier in the day to enjoy the full programme of activities and entertainments that we've prepared for the day.

· **How long is the event?**

We have planned a full day of entertainments, shows, activities and displays for the Battle of Hastings. We recommend planning for a full day out.

· **What time is the battle?**

The headline re-enactment is normally held in the afternoon of the event. We would not recommend aiming to attend for only the re-enactment, as you will miss out on many of the other spectacular displays and activities we have planned, and will still pay the same admission charge.



· **Will there be food and drink?**

There will be various catering concessions on site, including gourmet game burgers, a pizzeria and a selection of locally brewed beers provided by our external catering companies. On the Battlefield you will also find our English Heritage pop-up cafe offering chicken wraps, hot dogs, nachos and jacket potatoes. The site's Abbey café will be open, providing a range of snacks and sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, cakes and ice creams. Vegetarian, dairy and gluten free options are available from English Heritage catering outlets, and we provide a range of choices for children. There is seating both inside and outside the café.

· **Can I bring a picnic?**

Yes, and if you've forgotten to pack anything there are various options on site.

· **Can I pay by card?**

Yes, to help with the smooth running of the day, and to keep queues to a minimum, we are encouraging card payments where possible. We will still accept cash.

· **What can I see and do at the Battle of Hastings?**

Our event will bring the story of 1066 to life. As well as the entire historic battlefield, the Abbey gatehouse and visitor centre exhibitions will be open as usual for you to enjoy. In addition to all you can normally see at Battle Abbey, two large groups depicting the Norman and Saxon forces will be encamped on the battlefield for you to explore, giving a taste of life in an 11th century army. During the day, there will be several impressive arena displays including historic falconry and cavalry horsemanship. Children can learn sword skills in our knights' melee, try their hand at Archery, enjoy storytelling sessions and activities. In the afternoon, you can enjoy the great spectacle of the headline battle display, where two armies containing over 300 re-enactors will recreate the Battle of Hastings.

· **Can I pick up a souvenir?**

We offer a wide range of 1066 themed souvenirs and unique gifts in our English Heritage outlets located in the Gatehouse Shop, Battlefield shop and next to our children's arena. We stock a wide range of products; from children's dress-up to Battle Abbey-specific items. You can also sample a selection of delicious wines and meads. You can pick up a unique, themed, souvenir of the event at one of the many Medieval traders who will be attending the event located on our famous Trader Row. These will be located in 'traders row', located on the route from the event car park to the event site.

· **Are all activities included in the ticket price?**

All of the site and event activities are included in the ticket price, with the exception of our shield painting activity which carries a small charge.

Weather

· **What happens if it is raining?**

Please come prepared! We recommend that you bring warm clothing and footwear for the outdoors and autumn weather. Unless the weather is severe enough to present a safety issue, the event will go ahead as normal.

Step into England's story



If the rain or any extreme weather conditions presents a safety issue, notification of cancellation will be made on www.english-heritage.org.uk website, Facebook and Twitter. Those who have booked in advance will also be contacted on the email they booked with. Please contact customer services by [clicking here](#).

All Other Questions

Is site re-entry allowed?

Yes, you will be able to re-enter the event, please keep your ticket(s) with you and show them to the admissions team on re-entry.

Are dogs allowed into the event?

Dogs on leads are welcome at the event. Owners should bear in mind that the event will be busy, often with noisy activities. Please ensure you pick up any mess left behind by your dog.

Can I bring a chair?

There is limited seating available at the arena. Visitors are welcome to bring their own low-backed picnic seating or blankets to sit on.

If you have any other questions, please read [English Heritage's general FAQs](#) or [contact customer service](#).