



Stirling Castle

01786 450 000

We look forward to welcoming your group.
Please check for any closures before visiting:
stirlingcastle.scot
historicenvironment.scot/closures

Learning Assistant contact
Ryan.McGhie@hes.scot

Health and safety

It is the responsibility of learning group leaders to complete their own risk assessment prior to any visit with a group.

The hazard information provided **does not** replace a learning group leader's own risk assessment. We strongly recommend that you contact us to arrange a free planning visit.

Learning group leaders are responsible for their group members at all times.

Please check our website for the required supervision ratios:

historicenvironment.scot/learn/staffing-ratios

Weather

The weather may affect the risks on the day. Please dress for the outdoors (including appropriate footwear).

Hazards

- Areas undergoing building works
- Moving traffic at drop off/pick up points
- Moving vehicles within visitor areas
- Slippery surfaces
- Steep slopes
- Unprotected edge(s) and/or steep drop(s)
- Uneven surfaces
- Uneven steps/stairs



Arrangements for group travel

Coaches can drop off/pick up on the esplanade but not park. Accessible vehicles (cars/minibuses) can park on the esplanade.



Where to gather on arrival

On the esplanade or the grassy areas to the left and right of the castle entrance.



Resources that can be provided

Our resources include a castle map, quizzes, costumed interpreter and some interactive elements in exhibition spaces. We also have audio guides (multiple languages) which are charged for on the day, subject to availability and cannot be booked in advance.



Space to leave bags

We do not offer bag storage.



Shop

Learning groups are welcome to visit our shops with a responsible adult. We suggest that no more than 10 people visit a shop at one time to keep queues manageable, and that groups go at different times during their visit.



Toilets

There are toilets, including an adapted toilet, in the first courtyard when you come through the entrance gate. Other toilets are located near the Chapel Royal (ladies) and near the entrance to the Stirling Heads Gallery (men).



Good to know

Please wear suitable footwear as the castle has cobbles and uneven ground. Rucksacks are recommended for learners to carry their lunch and personal items around the castle. There are a few areas which are not wheelchair accessible.



Spaces for lunch, learning or additional support

Outdoor

There are public areas around the castle where groups can gather for lunch which don't require booking in advance. These areas can accommodate a full class size (33 pupils, plus responsible adults)

- **The Queen Anne Garden**
seating available.
- **Douglas Gardens**
no seating available.
- **French Spur (grassy area outside the castle café)**
seating available.
- **Nether Bailey**
seating available.

Covered

There is a covered lunch space in the Nether Bailey area which can be used by a full class and has seating. Speak to a member of staff on arrival to see if available, the lunch space cannot be booked in advance.

There are also two learning spaces – contact the Learning Assistant for more information/to book.

Additional support

There is a quiet space beside the ladies' toilet in the Inner Close for learners with additional support needs. If you require this space, please contact the Learning Assistant, or ask a member of staff on the day.

Accessibility information is available here:
stirlingcastle.scot/visit/access-guide