



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

edinburghcastle.scot

historicalenvironment.scot/closures

Edinburgh Castle

0131 226 9435

Learning Officer contact
ec.learning@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:

historicalenvironment.scot/learn/staffing-ratios

Weather

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

Hazards

- Low doorways and/or passageways
- Low lighting
- Moving traffic at drop off/pick up points
- Moving vehicles within visitor areas
- Slippery surfaces
- Unprotected edge(s) and/or steep drop(s)
- Uneven surfaces
- Uneven steps/stairs



Arrangements for group travel

The best place to drop off/pick up learners is on Johnston Terrace or at The Hub (at the top of the Royal Mile). From these areas it's a short, uphill walk to the castle. Coaches/minibuses cannot be accommodated on the esplanade.



Where to gather on arrival

Groups can gather on the esplanade whilst the group leader collects tickets from the Ticket Office.



Resources that can be provided

Explore our resources for visits:

[edinburghcastle.scot/plan-your-visit/groups/learning-groups](https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/plan-your-visit/groups/learning-groups)

We have limited quantities of printed versions of our resources, please request before your visit.

If you need additional learning materials for use during your visit, please contact the Learning Officer to discuss options.

The castle also has printed quizzes/trails aimed at families.



Space to leave bags

We do not offer bag storage.



Toilets

The main visitor toilets are on the left as you enter the castle. Other toilets are located at David's Tower.

The learning room has one accessible toilet.



Good to know

Edinburgh Castle is a very busy place; be prepared for large crowds. We recommend splitting into smaller groups (each with an adult leader) to explore the castle more easily.

Bag searches may take place before entering the castle.

Even on a nice day, Edinburgh Castle's exposed position on castle rock means it tends to be windier and colder than it is at ground level. Please bring warm outdoor clothing.



Spaces for lunch, learning or additional support

Outdoor

The castle is a busy place with limited space, particularly in the summer season. It will not always be possible for groups to find a space to eat lunch outside. The outdoor spaces that are most likely to be able to accommodate up to 30 people are Hospital Square or the Half Moon Battery. **Please note: there is no seating available, and these areas will be shared with the public.**

Covered space

We have a learning room which can be booked by learning groups, subject to availability. The space can accommodate 30 people, including both adults and learners.

Please email the Learning Officer in advance to discuss your request.

Additional support

The castle does not have a designated quiet room. If one of your learners may require such a space, please contact the Learning Officer to discuss options.

Accessibility information is available on our website: [edinburghcastle.scot/plan-your-visit/access-guide](https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/plan-your-visit/access-guide)



Shop

Learning groups are welcome to visit the shops onsite. We recommend visiting the **Portcullis giftshop** as it has the largest range of products which might appeal to learners.

Please visit our shops in small groups:

- **Portcullis giftshop:** 10 learners and an adult leader
- **Crown giftshop:** five learners and an adult leader.
- **Whisky and Finest Food giftshop:** five learners and an adult leader. **Please note: for the purchase of alcohol Scottish Licensing Laws apply.**

Please let the shop team know when you are entering with a group. Please try to create an orderly queue as you wait.