



Bolton Castle



Thank you for your interest in School Visits and Activity Days at Bolton Castle. The following information is designed to help you plan a successful visit, however if you have any more specific questions please don't hesitate to contact us before completing the enclosed booking form.

Background History

Bolton Castle is a spectacular Medieval fortress situated in the heart of Wensleydale. Completed by Sir Richard Le Scrope, in 1399, its scars bear testament to more than 600 years of fascinating history making it an ideal venue for educational school visits covering topics from Medieval life to the English Civil War. The authentic and atmospheric room displays show castle life as it would have been for the different members of the castle community from the archers, cooks and monks to Mary, Queen of Scots and Lord and Lady Scrope.

Educational Visits

We are now offering an exciting range of opportunities for schools and youth groups to visit Bolton Castle and learn more about what castle life was really like for both rich and poor, the fascinating events that took place here and how much things have changed.

Different options for school visits include Full Activity Days as well as teacher led castle only options. Topics/themes currently offered include 'Medieval life', 'Castle defences', 'Castle life', 'The Tudors', 'The Stuarts', 'Mary, Queen of Scots', 'Rich and Poor', 'The Wars of the Roses', and the 'Civil War'.

We will do everything we can to ensure all guided tours and activities give your class the best possible learning experience by adapting our tours and activities to address the learning outcomes of your specific topic/theme, the age and ability of the group and any additional support needs you make us aware of.

Trouvere Medieval Minstrels

Trouvere are specialists in live historical presentation and present a fantastic range of historical workshops combining music, dance, role play and lots of fun!

Included in all school visits during our open season (April—October) is the chance for students to watch our falconry displays, enjoy the archery demonstration and visit the Wild Boar and Maze.

Out of season, students can still enjoy the castle, gardens and maze as well as visiting our wild boar but the falconry will not be available. Set dressing of the castle, with candles and fires lit, plus archery, spear and sword drill is included in a full activity day but not in other types of visit.



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Falconry, Archery, Wild Boar, Rare Breed sheep and Bee Keeping.

Included in all types of school visit (during the open season (April—October) is the chance for students to watch the incredible falconry displays, enjoy the archery demonstration, visit the Wild Boar and see the Bees in their hives.

The range of displays available include;

Bird of Prey Displays

Enjoy a spectacular flying display from our hawks, owls and falcons.

Wild Boar Park

School groups may visit the boar at any time and, as the boar spend most of their time at the front of the park, you do have a good chance of seeing them. There is also a wild boar talk and feeding time each day.

Archery Demonstrations and Have a go!

Learn more about archery in sport, hunting and warfare during our displays and then have a go yourself! (Depending on size of group and members of the public in the castle not all children may be able to have a go unless you have booked a Full Activity Day.

Bee Keeping Display (May—Sept)

Meet our bees in their observation hive and learn more about bee keeping through the ages by visiting the display in our bee house.

Please contact Dave Manning at dave@timetalks.org.uk or 07951956553 to discuss organising your visit.



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School Visits and Activity Days Options

Full Activity Day

Cost: £13.50 a head (minimum 20 students) | free adult for every 10 children, extra adults £7.00 a head unless members of group have additional support needs in which case all support staff will have free entry.

Available Dates: All year round.

Timings: 10.00—15.00 (Times can be adjusted to suit school requirements)

Lunch Options:

1) Themed Banquet. We can lay on an authentic themed banquet consisting of for example bread, cheese, ham, eggs, chicken, flapjacks and more for £5.95 per child.

2) Packed Lunch—Children may bring their own packed lunch (preferably authentic to the day) which can be eaten in the Old Kitchen.

Entrance includes access to gardens and grounds.

Description.

Our Full Activity Days are led by an experienced living historian and give children the unique opportunity to live in a medieval castle, as their ancestors might have done. This is as close to time travel as possible and we believe it enables the children to not only learn on the day, but it also develops their interest and motivation in the classroom. This is achieved through an introductory talk, themed guided tour and a range of activities tailored to the topic/period being studied: spear drill, sword drill, calligraphy, handling and sketching artefacts, medieval toys and games, uses of herbs and pomander making, plague bag and pomander making, dancing and archery are all on offer. They will also have the chance to see the falconry displays and Wild Boar. We are able to provide authentic Medieval costumes, consisting of a tunic and cappucine/wimple, belt or rope tie and leather purse, and skirts, jackets and hats for the Tudor/Civil war period.

Castle Entrance Only

Cost: £6.00 a head (minimum 15 students)

Available Dates and Times: During normal castle opening times

Lunch Options: As above.

Entrance includes access to gardens and grounds.

Description

This day allows you to explore the castle with your group at your own pace and enjoy learning more about this incredible building. We recommend that you allow at least an hour to explore the castle properly and also allow some time (approx 30 minutes) to enjoy our beautiful medieval gardens and maze which is always extremely popular. Children also get the chance to see the archery demonstration, watch the falconry displays and meet the Wild Boar and bees.

We can provide various activity sheets/trails to add interest while the children explore the castle with themes including castle life, Tudors, Stuarts, and more.



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Trouvère Medieval Minstrels Musical Workshops



Trouvère Medieval Minstrels have been presenting workshops for schools for some ten years now. They started off specialising in the Tudor period, but have branched out to cover the Medieval Period as well and so are perfectly placed to provide workshops within Bolton Castle.

We are offering the incredible opportunity for schools to combine a visit to the Castle with a Medieval or Tudor workshop led by the wonderful Trouvère.

Options available include:

Castle entrance and one Trouvère workshop: £300 (max 30 children)

Castle entrance and two Trouvère workshops: £400 (max 30 children)

Workshops last 1.5 hours each so the children will also have time during the day to explore the Castle, enjoy one of our archery and falconry displays, get lost in the maze and meet the wild boar and have lunch in the Old Kitchen or gardens depending on the timings for your visit.

Trouvère will be available on Mondays and Tuesdays during school term time. Other days may be possible if you are unable to schedule for either of these days. Please enquire using the details below

Trouvère Tudor workshops available include:

An Audience with Mary Queen of Scots

Extended role play. The children meet the Queen, learn about Tudor behaviour and etiquette and try out for various posts at court. (Years 3-6)

Tudor Revels

A fun mixture of Tudor activities including have-a-go with Tudor musical instruments, playing Tudor games and an introduction to Tudor dance. (Years 3-4)

Tudor Music & Dance

Hearing and trying out a great variety of Tudor-period musical instruments plus learning Tudor dance steps and a simple dance. (Years 5-6)

Trouvère Medieval Workshops in the Great Hall include:

In this session we explore the similarities and differences between medieval and modern life by focusing above all on how people had fun in the middle ages. The children get dressed up in simple medieval outfits and acquire a medieval name, before going on to learn some simple Medieval greetings. They then try out Medieval musical instruments, have a go at a variety of Medieval games and try some Medieval dancing - or as much of this as we can fit in! Suitable for KS1 and KS2

Medieval Music and Dance

A similar session but aimed at older KS2 (Years 5 and 6) with a larger instrumental component and no dressing up!

01969 623981

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School Visits and Activity Days Other Information

Access

The gardens are accessible for wheel chairs, but please be aware that there are slopes and gravel paths which can become slippery in wet conditions.

Unfortunately due to the nature of the building the Castle is not wheelchair accessible and spiral stairs and uneven flooring exist throughout the building. Please see our website for a full access statement or let us know if you would like a hard copy sent out to you.

Although we have a minimum group size we will make exceptions for groups of students with additional support needs who are only able to visit in small groups.

Health and Safety

We have completed risk assessments for all activities and Health and safety advice for school visits which we are happy to send out to you if you wish to see these. Alternatively if you wish to visit the castle before your visit and gather some more information to make your own risk assessments we will happily offer you free entry and a chance to speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

Coach Parking

There is space for coaches to park in the main car park. There is enough hard standing to allow coaches to turn round comfortably. Please do not park on the village green, or opposite the church.

Arrival

To ensure a smooth and efficient admissions process we ask that the teacher leaves the group on the coach (or organises adults to take children to toilets in car park if necessary) and makes their way to the admissions desk to meet the member of staff at the Castle. We will then be able to bring the group in through the portcullis and do a short welcome and health and safety briefing for the group.

Alternatively if you wish you can bring your group in through the normal visitor route through the trellis door opposite the church which takes you straight to the tea room and gift shop.

How to Book

To book please complete booking form and return to Dave Manning at dave@timetalks.org.uk or call Dave on 07951956553 for more information or to check available dates.