



National
Trust

Visual Story

This information is to help you prepare for a visit to **Castle Drogo** in Devon.

Created by

Heritage
Ability



General Information



Castle Drogo is the last castle to be built in England.

It was gifted to the National Trust and now open to the public to enjoy.

As well as looking inside the castle and learning about the family and famous architect that built Castle Drogo, there are also views over Dartmoor, the formal garden, woodland and longer walks to enjoy.

The castle has recently had a 9 year building project to help make the castle watertight. You can learn more about the building project in the hut located opposite the front of the castle.

This year there is also an exhibition in the gun room about the River Teign and the Salmon that live there.

Parking



There is a long, wide drive leading up to the castle.

It is lined with trees and there is plenty of room to pass vehicles.

Keep following the signs up to the Visitor Car Park.



In the car park there is a separate area for vans and coaches to park.

There are also accessible parking spaces.



If you are a National Trust member parking is free, but you need to bring your membership card with you.

If you are not a member, you need to pay for parking. You can pay with cash or if you want to pay with card please come to the visitor centre to purchase a ticket.

For non members it costs:
£2 for 2 hours, or
£6 for all day.

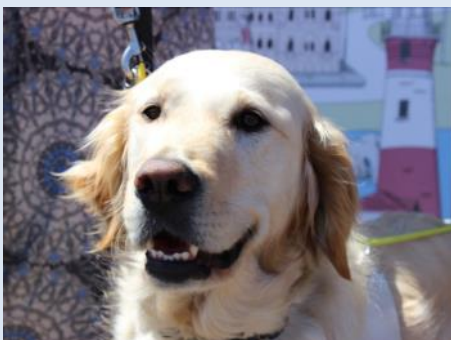
Visitor Centre



This is the Visitor Centre, where you pay to enter the castle and grounds. For National Trust members it is free to visit.

For non National Trust members you will need to pay:

- Adults: £14.00
- Children: £7.00



Guide Dogs are welcome anywhere and well-behaved dogs are allowed around the grounds, but not in all areas.

There is a 'dog guide' available from the Visitor Centre and signage around the site.



- A member of staff will be behind the front desk to answer any questions and help you.
- There is a hearing loop at the reception and they have several maps and guides to help you.

Look on the **Thing's to see and do** on the website to see if there is an event taking place.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-drogo

Opening Times:

The **Castle** opens daily 10.30—4.30 (last entry is at 4pm)

The **Countryside** is open during daylight hours all year round.

The **Visitor Centre, Café, Garden** and **Shop** are open 10 am until 5 pm

Please check our website for our winter opening times between November and March, as these vary.



There is a shop and a café. The acoustics in the café can cause it to be noisy, but it is light with lots of windows.

It can get very busy, especially between 12pm-1pm.

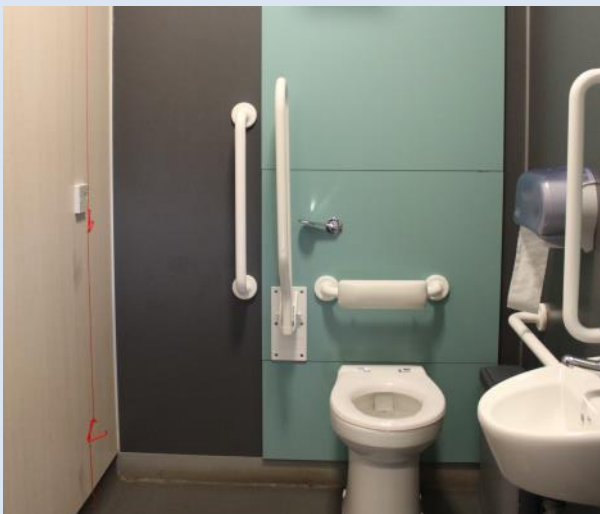
They serve light lunches and refreshments, as well as hot meal options.

There is also outside seating and picnic tables.



This is the National Trust shop.

It can get quite crowded in here when it's busy, but it is generally a calm environment.



In the Visitor Centre, near the reception desk, there is an accessible toilet.

It has an emergency pull cord.

Getting Around



The Castle is 300 yards from the Visitor Centre, which is approximately a 10 minute walk.

You can be taken down to the Castle on the buggy if you want to.



There is a Tramper available for hire. This is an all-terrain mobility scooter that will enable you to get around the site.

You don't have to be registered with a disability or a blue badge holder to hire the Tramper.

Book the Tramper in advance to guarantee its availability.



There are plenty of benches and seats located around the site so that you can rest or enjoy the views.

Inside the Castle



There is a ramp at the entrance to the Castle.

When you go into the building the lighting will change and it will seem quite dark. This is especially apparent on a sunny day.

Take your time to let your eyes adjust.



There will be a member of the Castle Drogo team in the entrance of the castle who can give you information and answer your questions.

They will show you where to go to see the introductory video.

They are very friendly and helpful and talk to everybody.



The levels inside the castle are unusual. There are stair cases leading up and down from the entrance level.

The corridors have high ceilings and the stairs are carpeted.

Some areas are lit by windows, but it depends on the weather!



Some of the corridors are quite wide and light and other corridors are narrow and dark.

All the walls are bare stone and the building has loud acoustics throughout.

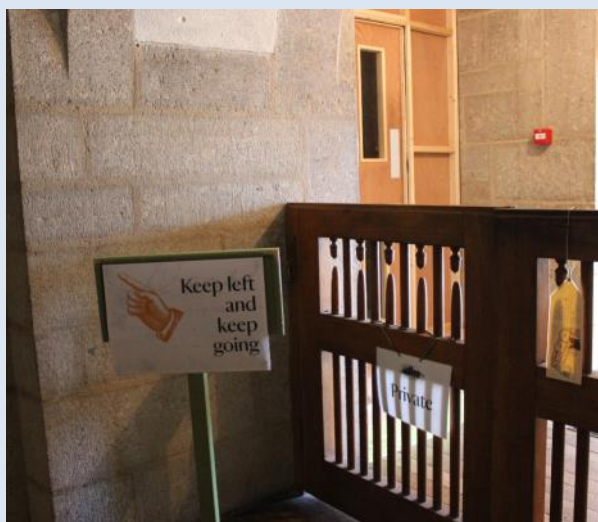
Some areas have carpet and some floors are polished wood.



There will be other people looking around in the rooms, reading the information and looking at the objects.

Nearly all the items on display are not to be touched.

It is respectful to be quiet because the sounds carry a long distance inside the castle.



There is a preferred route to walk around the castle.

There are signs that tell you where to go.

If in doubt, just ask, there are volunteers in various rooms around the castle to help you.



Around the castle you may notice ropes on chairs and other objects.

This is to stop you sitting down on them as they are old and fragile.



You can walk on the carpets in the rooms and around the furniture.

You can look at the ornaments and antiques up close, but please don't touch!

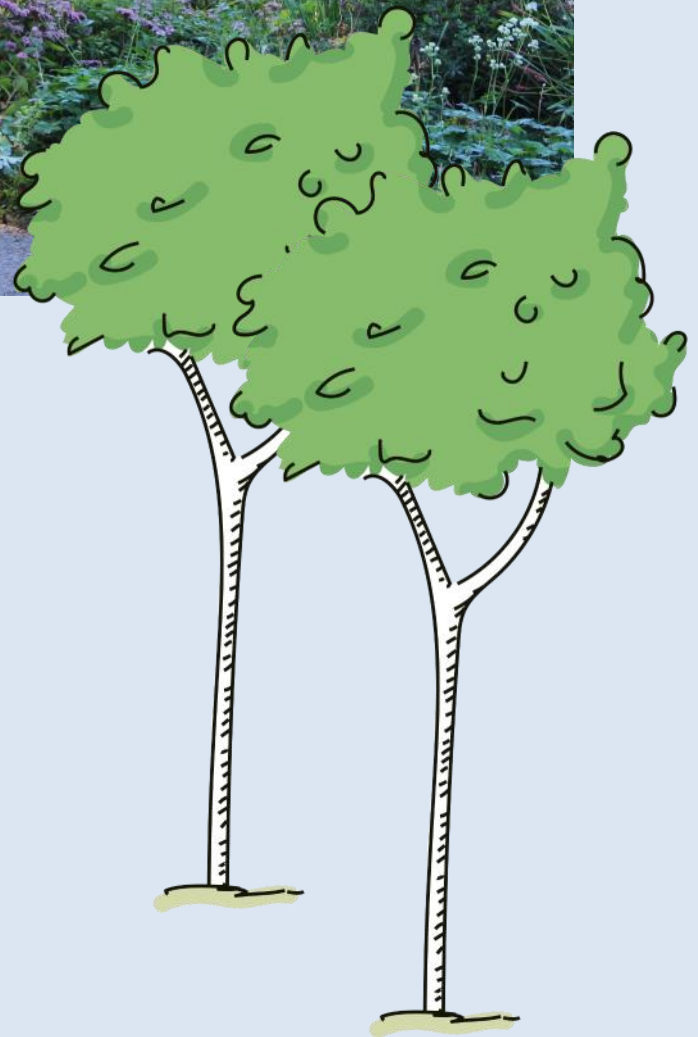


Outside at Castle Drogo



Outside at Castle Drogo you can:

- Explore the **Formal Garden**
- Do the **Rhododendron Walk** to the Chapel
- Do the longer **estate walks**.





You are welcome to explore the **Formal Garden**. Please keep to the paths.

There are natural structures to walk under and beds of plants to enjoy.

It is laid out in a grid pattern and constructed over several levels.



There are steps between the levels. You may also access the different levels via the external pathways.

Ask about the accessible routes at the Visitor Centre. A map is available to help you.



There may be gardeners using machinery, which could be noisy and may temporarily block paths.

There may be objects on the ground, but you can walk around them.



The **Rhododendron Walk** to the **Chapel** starts and is sign-posted from the paths behind the Formal Gardens.

The surface is not suitable for wheelchairs. It becomes narrow and rugged in some areas.



To reach the **Chapel**, follow the wooded path around the front of the **Castle**.

You can go inside the **Chapel**.



The **Walk** is popular with dog-walkers and is a part of the Two Moors Way. It provides great views over Dartmoor.

Good walking shoes need to be worn because the pathway is natural and will vary according to weather conditions.

Ask at the **Visitor Centre** about the best route for you on the day.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



For more information about Heritage Ability,
visit www.heritageability.org

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