



National  
Trust

# Learning Group Visit to Castle Drogo

High above the Teign Gorge on the edge of Dartmoor stands Castle Drogo. Reminiscent of a medieval fortress the castle was designed and built between 1910 and 1930 by renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens for self-made millionaire Julius Drewe. Inspired by the rugged Dartmoor tors that surround it, Castle Drogo was laboriously shaped and chiselled by hand out of local granite and is a lasting memorial to the men who built it.

During 2019 we will be coming to the end of a 6 year building project to make the castle watertight and beginning the huge task of putting everything back together to return the castle to a beautiful family home. We'll be staying open throughout this work allowing you to see behind the scenes of a National Trust property as rooms are repaired and redecorated, carpets laid, curtains rehung and the furniture unpacked. Things will be changing on a regular basis as work progresses so our team of volunteers and experts will be on hand to explain what's happening as the castle transforms back to a home fit for the Drewe family.

Outside hidden behind immaculate yew hedges stands a unique Lutyens designed terraced formal garden. There's plenty to see throughout the changing seasons from the spectacular colour of azaleas and rhododendrons in spring, to patchwork rose beds, and the Bunty House complete with its own miniature garden.



## Activities at Castle Drogo and the wider estate

### *In the castle*



#### **Castle trail**

Follow the trail around the castle and see if you can complete the challenges on them.

### *On our estate:*

#### **Explore the estate on a 1 mile walk**

This is a spectacular walk on Piddledown Common that overlooks the dramatic Teign Gorge. Take in some incredible views over Dartmoor and see how many beautiful butterflies you can spot. Start and finish at Castle Drogo, moderate difficulty level, taking around 30-40 minutes to complete.

*Longer walks available, maps on sale for only £2 at Visitor Reception.*



#### **Orienteering**

We have two orienteering courses here at Castle Drogo. One intermediate course, which is 2.5km and a hard course at 4.2km. Make sure you have a compass, some good walking shoes and you're ready to go!

#### **Geocaching**

Looking to turn your walk into a real adventure? Try one of our high-tech treasure hunts. We've teamed up with experts Garmin, to introduce more people to the fun of geocaching. You will need a GPS device or download the app onto your smart phone.



#### **Is your school in Devon?**

If your school is located in Devon please let us know when making your booking. We have a community engagement officer onsite who may be able to offer specially arranged activities to our local schools.

For full information and maps for the activities listed above please visit our website - <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-drogo>

## Planning your visit

We recommend allowing up to 1½ hours to tour the castle, and around half an hour for the gardens. The Estate can take anything from half an hour to a complete day depending on the walks and paths you choose to take.

## How to get here

Castle Drogo is located 5 miles south of the A30 between Exeter (15 miles) and Okehampton (12 miles). Please follow the brown tourist signs from the Whiddon Down (for coaches) or Woodleigh Junction exit on the A30. **The maximum coach recommendations (provided by the Highways Agency) is 10.5 metres x 2.39 metres, or no bigger than 43 seats.** This is due to the narrow lanes and tight bends en route to Castle Drogo. We ask you share this information with your coach company when booking your visit to us.

## Catering & packed lunch facilities

Visit our self-service café.

Please note that packed lunches are not permitted to be eaten within our café seating areas (inside or out). All packed lunches must be eaten on our picnic benches within our orchard, or gardens. The only inside seating available is within our activity hut (please see below for details).

## Need some space?

We have an activity hut in the grounds, which is perfect for schools and kids activities. This is also a suitable space for eating packed lunches. The booking of this area is free, but is subject to availability. If you are interested in booking this space please contact our administration office on 01647 433306 extension 100 or email [castledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:castledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## Familiarisation visit

We recommend that your group leader takes advantage of our free familiarisation visit to ensure that everything runs smoothly on the day. Please book in advance by calling 01647 433306.

## Access & facilities

Castle – ramped entrance to the ground floor. Inside rooms and floors only accessible by many flights of stairs over different levels. Garden - level access via the Shop to the upper Garden then via main drive to fragrant garden and rose garden.

Shop, Visitor Reception and Café - level or ramped access.

Buggy transfer service available (seats up to 4 people) from Visitor Centre to Castle.

Disabled WC at Visitor Centre (but not at the castle).

## Opening Times for 2019

### Castle:

Dates	Times
9 March – 27 October 2019	7 Days a week opening - 11am-5pm Last admission 4pm at Visitor Reception.

### Gardens, Cafe, Shop: 7 Days a week opening on:

Dates	Times
1 January – 8 March 2019 *	10am-4pm
9 March – 27 October 2019	9.30am-5pm**
28 October – 31 December 2019†	10am-4pm

\*Closed 14 - 27 January. \*\* Garden opens at 10; visitor centre and garden close 5.30; café and shop close 5.30 in July and August. †Closed 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December.

### Free admissions to all National Trust Educational Group Members.

Subscription fees 2018 (inclusive of VAT): Subscriptions cover one year from the month of joining.

Number on Roll	Rate
Under 50	£45.65
51-100	£76.25
101-200	£92.30
201-500	£97.85
Over 500	£113.15
Tertiary/Field Study	£144.55

### 2019 Subscription fees to be confirmed.

National Trust educational group membership can be purchased at the property on the date of your visit, or online at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/membership/educational-group-memberships/>

## Group Admission Prices

Groups with a confirmed booking which consist of 15+ people are entitled to our discount group rates:

2019	Discounted Group Rate (per person)
Adult House & Gardens	£11.50
Child House & Gardens	£5.70

For more information please call 01647 433306 extension 100 or email [castledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:castledrogo@nationaltrust.org.uk)