



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

KSI-2

KS3

SEND

DISCOVERY VISIT GUIDE

Carisbrooke Castle

This guide provides teachers with everything they need to know about our expert-led Discovery Visits at Carisbrooke Castle. Students will experience life in the past at the castle by learning about our donkeys and building a treadwheel, following a treasure hunt or discovering medieval weaponry.



GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION BOOKINGS TEAM:

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Share your visit with us on Twitter [@EHEducation](https://twitter.com/EHEducation)

Step into England's story

WELCOME

This guide for Carisbrooke Castle has been designed to support teachers and group leaders on a Discovery Visit at the site. We know that each class and study group is different, so we have collated all the information into one guide so you can prepare for your upcoming Discovery Visit.

For practical information and activity ideas to help support a free self-led visit, download the Teachers' Kit on our **Schools page**. Here you can also find a ready-made Risk Assessments for your Discovery Visit and general Hazard Information for the place you are visiting.

We hope you enjoy your visit and that you find this Discovery Visit Guide useful. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of our team either via bookeducation@english-heritage.org.uk or on 0370 333 0606.

English Heritage Learning Team

ICON KEY

The icons below will help you quickly identify which key stage each Discovery Visit is for.



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SUMMARY

WATER, WELLS AND DONKEYS: LIFE IN THE PAST

KSI-2

SEND

Recommended for

KSI–KS2 (History, Science, Design & Technology)

Especially suitable for students with SEND

Learning objectives

WHAT: Explore how people lived in the past, why donkeys were used at the castle, and how the treadwheel works.

HOW: Use senses to interpret sights, textures, sounds and smells, making wheels and axles and meeting our donkeys.

OUTCOME: Explain how life in the past is similar or different from today, and how the role of the donkeys at the castle has changed over time.

Duration

1 hour 30 minutes



One of the donkeys at Carisbrooke Castle.

DISCOVERY VISITS AT ENGLISH HERITAGE

Our Discovery Visits are award-winning, hands-on, expert-led, site-based activities, which combine inspiring experiences with quality learning outside the classroom. At just £100 a session at selected sites, these visits are delivered by our experts and have been designed to meet the needs of different groups across the key stages. Led by specialist educators, site staff and volunteers, with knowledge and expertise across the curriculum, these visits enable students of all ages and abilities to step into England's story.

WELLS, WHEELS AND DONKEYS DISCOVERY VISIT

Learn about life in the past at Carisbrooke Castle. Through role play, hands-on activities and sensory exploration, your class will discover how the community survived inside the castle during a siege and how donkeys powered the treadwheel for the well. By the end of the session your students will have created their own treadwheel model and seen the real thing in action. After learning all about their adaptations and natural habitat, your class will have an exclusive encounter with one of our very special castle donkeys (donkey wellbeing permitting).

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to key features of the castle's architecture and defensive features.
- Explore the concept of a castle siege and its purpose of starving the castle community into surrender.

SEND GROUPS

This DV is specially designed for groups with students with SEND. Please contact our bookings team for any special requirements and we will be happy to adapt the session to suit your class's needs. Download our Carisbrooke Castle Social Story from the **Schools page** to help your students prepare for their visit to the castle.

SUMMARY

A CARISBROOKE CARRY ON: HOW TO SURVIVE

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS1–KS3 (History, English, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand key figures in the castle's history and what impact they had on the castle buildings, some key medieval weapons and types of medicine.

HOW: Explore different characters through costumes and role play, and discover medieval life through games, handling objects and stories.

OUTCOME: Describe how the castle changed over time and how life was different in the medieval era.

Duration

1 hour 15 minutes



Students learning about medieval weapons with Sir John.

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A CARISBROOKE CARRY ON DISCOVERY VISIT

Discover the stories and secrets of Carisbrooke Castle with Sir John Hevingham, medieval steward of the castle. Hear about the people who lived and worked here and find out how castles functioned. Handle weapons and artefacts, try on armour and costumes and have a go at some role play.

To see this Discovery Visit in action, watch our YouTube video (2 min 32 sec). Enter 'Carisbrooke Castle Carry On' into your chosen web search engine.

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the key personalities who lived and worked at the castle throughout its history.
- Find out the duties of a medieval castle steward.

AVAILABILITY

This DV is available on specific dates in the summer term only. Please contact our Bookings Team for more information.

SUMMARY

WHO LIVES IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS?

KS2

KS3

Recommended for

KS2–KS3 (History, English, Drama)

Learning objectives

WHAT: Understand the key events in the castle's history and how its buildings changed over time.

HOW: Explore key figures connected with the castle through role-play and discovering events through a timeline.

OUTCOME: Identify major episodes of the castle's history and link them with key personalities and specific areas of the castle buildings.

Duration

1 hour 15 minutes



A student dressed up as characters in the castle's history.

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WHO LIVES IN A HOUSE LIKE THIS? DISCOVERY VISIT

Go through the Carisbrooke Castle keyhole and meet the people who lived there over the last 1,000 years. Try on costumes and step into the shoes of kings, ladies and soldiers. Follow the clues in our treasure map to unlock the secrets of Carisbrooke Castle and let our interactive timeline guide you through its history in times of war and peace.

PRIOR LEARNING

We recommend you do the following before the Discovery Visit:

- Use the information and activities in the Teachers' Kit (on our **Schools page**) to introduce students to the key personalities who lived and worked at the castle throughout its history.
- Familiarise students with the layout of the castle, using the Site Plan in the Teachers' Kit.