

HEVER CASTLE



2024

Groups & Travel Trade Guide

Discover more at hevercastle.co.uk/groups

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER

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Introduction

Haver Castle & Gardens has a long established reputation for offering excellent service to group travel organisers, schools, student groups and the travel trade. With discounted admission rates for groups of 15 or more (paying) persons and a host of group benefits and special packages, Haver Castle & Gardens provides the perfect setting for a group day out.

A dedicated member of staff will assist you with your planning and will guide you every step of the way to ensure that your group visit is a memorable one.

Group Benefits

- + Discounted admission rates
- + Free visit for group leader and coach driver
- + Free parking
- + Free meal voucher for coach driver
- + Dedicated member of staff to help plan the perfect day
- + Special group menus
- + Special group packages
- + Special packages for schools



Castle

Dating back to the 14th century, Hever Castle was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII and mother of Elizabeth I.

Its splendid panelled rooms contain fine furniture, tapestries, antiques and an important collection of Tudor portraits regarded as 'one of the best collections of Tudor portraits after the National Portrait Gallery'. Two beautifully illuminated prayer books on display in the Book of Hours room belonged to Anne Boleyn and bear her inscription and signature.

Spanning more than 600 years, the history of Hever Castle is rich and varied. The original medieval defensive Castle, with its gatehouse and walled bailey, was built in 1383. In the 15th and 16th centuries it was the home of one of the most powerful families in the country, the Boleyns. Hever later passed into the ownership of another of Henry VIII's wives, Anne of Cleves, and from 1557 onwards it was owned by a number of families.

Much of what you see today is the result of the remarkable efforts of a wealthy American, William Waldorf Astor, who used his fortune to restore and extend the Castle in the early 20th century. A section of the Castle is dedicated to its more recent history.

New for 2024

From 26 June 2024 discover the newly interpreted Boleyn Apartment on the first floor of the Castle.

Walk in the footsteps of the Tudors and explore the only surviving suite of rooms in the world that the Boleyns definitely occupied.

Audio guides are included in Castle admission prices. They are available in English, French, German, Dutch, Russian and Chinese.

A children's audio guide in English is also available.



Dining Hall



Gardens

Discover magnificent award-winning gardens set in 125 acres of glorious grounds at Hever Castle. Marvel at the Pompeiian Wall and classical statuary in the Italian Garden; admire the giant topiary chess set in the Tudor Garden and inhale the fragrance of over 5,000 roses in the quintessential English Rose Garden.

The Loggia, overlooking the 38-acre Lake, is the perfect spot to relax before exploring the many cascades, grottoes and fountains. A stroll along the Long Border, Diana's Walk, Blue Corner and Rhododendron Walk provide colour and interest throughout the year. Wander further afield and enjoy Sunday Walk and Church Gill Walk that follow the course of a stream through peaceful woodland.

Images: 1&3 Rose Garden, 2 Tudor Garden, 4 Diana's Walk.

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Plan Your Day

To enjoy all that Hever Castle & Gardens has to offer we recommend around 4 hours for your visit. To help you plan your day, please refer to the timings below.

TIMING YOUR VISIT	
ATTRACTIONS	HOURS
Castle	1 hr
Gardens & Grounds	1 ½ hrs
Miniature Model Houses	½ hr
Shopping & Eating	1 hr
Garden Exhibition	½ hr
KSY Military Museum	½ hr
Mazes	½ hr (each)

Please consider access to the Castle and grounds according to your individual needs. You can seek advice from our Group Visits Manager.

Wheelchairs are available for hire and a mobility buggy* operates throughout the day between the Top Gate Entrance and Information Centre. It is not possible to use mobility scooters or pushchairs in the Castle and wheelchairs cannot be taken upstairs. For your own safety we advise wheelchair and mobility scooters keep to the hard surfaced shingle paths. Please visit the website for a full access guide and more information.

*Subject to availability / weather conditions



Italian Garden



Yew Maze



Attractions

Mazes

Visitors of all ages enjoy the challenge of finding their way through the Water Maze and the 100 year old Yew Maze.

Lake

The Lake provides a tranquil location to take a peaceful walk away from the Castle & Gardens. The magical lakeside locations of the Italian Loggia and Japanese Tea House not only provide delightful points from which to view the Lake, but are wonderful vistas from the Lake itself.

Garden Exhibition

Learn about Astor's Garden Legacy and the creation, restoration and development of the gardens from Tudor times to the present day. Unearth fascinating facts about the gardens.

KSY Military Museum

Learn about the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry through interactive, imaginative displays that bring to life the stories of their soldiers from 1794 to the present day.

Miniature Model Houses

Discover the fabulous collection that illustrates the development of English country houses through the ages, from Tudor to Victorian times.

Play Areas

Play in a nine-metre tall castle with its own moat, drawbridge, dining hall and three turrets. Discover a natural play area with a giant sandpit, climbing frames, swings, an aerial runway and special area for the under 5s.

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Private Guided Castle Tours

Tours are currently only available in English and last approximately 1 hour. Private Guided Tours must be booked in advance and start at 10am or 10.30am.

Take a tour of the Castle with an experienced and highly knowledgeable member of the team to learn about the Castle's rich and varied history. Discover all about those that have owned, lived and worked at the Castle and how it is conserved today. Enjoy detailed facts about the splendid panelled rooms, their fine furniture, tapestries, antiques and an important collection of Tudor paintings.

Private Guided Castle Tours must be pre-booked and are conducted outside of normal opening hours, commencing at 10am and 10.30am. Visitors are divided into groups of no more than 25, with one tour guide per group.

Images: 1 Entrance Hall, 2 Drawing Room, 3 Oratory, 4 King Henry VIII's Bedchamber.



Private Guided Garden Tours

Tours are only available in English and last approximately 1 hour.
Private Guided Tours must be booked in advance.

Garden Tour

Take a tour of the gardens with one of the Hever Castle gardening team. Discover more about the work that goes on today to conserve, restore and improve the gardens. Your tour guide will be happy to answer any questions you have about the gardens and the flora and fauna within them.

Head Gardener Tour*

Take a tour of the gardens with Hever Castle's award winning Head Gardener. Discover more about flora and fauna and the work that goes on today to conserve, restore and improve the gardens.

Tours are only available in English (weekdays only) and last approximately 1 hour.

**Subject to availability.*

Images: 1 Pergola Walk, 2 Blue Corner, 3 Tudor Garden.

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Specialist Tours & Audio Guides

Hidden Hever

Experience a private tour offering the chance to discover additional rooms of the Castle usually closed to visitors.

This tour is for up to 15 adults only per session. Tours are only available in English and last approximately 1 ½ hours. Please discuss accessibility with us prior to booking.

Audio Guides

Be guided through the rooms of the Castle with a lively insight into how life might have been in Tudor times. Discover more about the fine collection of portraits, paintings, tapestries and artefacts and learn about the restoration of the Castle. Innovative rub-away photos allow you to see the Castle pre-restoration.

Audio guides are available in English, French, German, Dutch, Russian and Chinese. A children's audio guide in English is also available. The audio guide lasts approximately 45 minutes.

Please check the website for details of new specialist tours.



Shopping

Both the Hever and Courtyard Shops provide a wonderful selection of products to explore – from seasonal plants, local food and drink, to china, books, unique gifts and mementos of your time at Hever.

You'll be inspired by our exciting range to suit all tastes, ages and budgets. Many reflect the Castle's colourful history while others showcase the best of classic and contemporary design.

Find out more at hevercastle.co.uk/shop

Images: 1 Wooden Ducks,
2 Hever Shop, 3 Moat Café.



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School Visits

Hever Castle & Gardens welcomes schools from the UK, Europe and all over the world and is the perfect day out for an informative educational experience outside the classroom.

Choose from a self-guided visit, a private guided tour, a workshop, or a audio guide.

A School Pack that includes a host of classroom resources, teaching aids, maps and health and safety information is also available.

	CHILD (5 - 15)	STUDENT (16 - 19)	ADULT*
Self-Guided with Worksheets*	£6.15	£12.05	£15.45
Free-flow with WWI or WW2 Haversacks*	£6.15	£12.05	£15.45
Castle Private Guided Tour	£7.95	£17.20	£15.45
Time Travellers Tour & Workshop	£9.10	–	£15.45
Romans Tour & Workshop	£9.10	–	£15.45
SCHOOL ADD-ONS			
Birds of Prey Demo & Talk†	From £150.00 per group		
Tudor or Medieval Workshop (45 mins)	£1.85 per child		

*Adults will be admitted free of charge on a 1:6 or 1:10 ratio depending on the age of the children. Children must not be left unattended at any time.

†See website for full details.

Images: 1 Acorn Dell, 2 Tudor Towers, 3 Yew Maze, 4 Picnic area.



What's On

A varied programme of events is available to groups throughout 2024.
Full details of all events are available at: hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on

This is a small selection of events that are particularly popular with groups.

EVENT	DATES
Snowdrop Walk	From Feb 7 2024
Dazzling Daffodils	Mar 18 – 24 2024
Celebration of Spring	April 15 – 28 2024
Spring Craft Fair	May 16 – 19 2024
Hever in Bloom	June 24 – July 7 2024
Autumn Craft Fair	Sep 12 – 15 2024
Autumn Colour	From Oct 1 2024
Christmas at the Castle	See website for dates

Images: 1 Hever in Bloom, 2 Christmas at the Castle, 3 Celebration of Spring.



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Group Prices

(15 or more paying persons[†])

	ADULT	SENIOR	STUDENT (16 - 19)	CHILD (5 - 15)
Castle & Gardens	£15.45	£14.55	£12.05	£6.15
Gardens Only	£12.75	£12.30	£10.05	£5.60
Castle Private Guided Tours	£23.40		£17.20	£7.95
Castle Private Guided Tour + Garden Tour	£35.15			
Head Gardener Tour	£26.00 inc. Garden entry £29.15 inc. Castle & Garden entry			
Garden Tour	£19.15 inc. Garden entry £21.50 inc. Castle & Garden entry			
Hidden Hever Tour	1-15 people, aged 18+, 10am only, £75.00pp			

[†]Hidden Hever Tour is for groups of up to 15 people. The tour can only be booked 4 weeks in advance if there are 1-5 people in the group.

FIT rates are available on request.
All prices shown above include Garden entry.



Opening Times

Gardens open at 10.30am – Castle opens at 12 noon.

Private Guided Castle Tours are conducted outside of normal opening hours, commencing at 10am and 10.30am, and must be pre-booked.

DATE	LAST ENTRY	FINAL EXIT
SPRING SEASON 2024		
Feb 7 – Mar 28 (Daily)	15:00	16:30
MAIN SEASON 2024		
Mar 29 – Oct 26 (Daily)	16:30	18:00
Oct 27 – Nov 3 (Daily)	15:00	16:30
WINTER SEASON 2024		
Nov 4 – 21 (Wed – Sun)	15:00	16:30
CHRISTMAS SEASON 2024/25		
See website for opening times		



Inner Hall



Tapestry



Eating

From cakes made in our Castle kitchen and Kentish ice cream, to light bites and delicious lunches, there is something for everyone, whatever your appetite. Discover a choice of a restaurant, two cafés and kiosks dotted around the grounds*. Or bring your own picnic to enjoy at one of the many suitable areas. Only one mile from the Castle’s main entrance is the The Waterside Bar, Restaurant & Terrace overlooking the Golf Courses.

Arrival Refreshments	Morning coffee/tea with home baked biscuits.
Group Set Lunch	Choose from a selection of one, two and three course menus all served with bread and butter, jugs of water and coffee/tea.
Tudor Afternoon Tea^	Homemade mini scones, clotted cream and jam and coffee/tea.
Lady Astor Afternoon Tea^	Finger sandwiches, homemade mini scones, clotted cream and jam, mini cake selection and coffee/tea.

Find out more at hevercastle.co.uk/groups

*Seasonal opening times
^Available for groups of 20 or more paying persons



How to Book

To save time on arrival and to make your group visit a memorable one, it is recommended that you book in advance via our Group Visits Manager.

When you visit as a group the total cost must be paid in a single payment and group rates can only be applied if your group comprises of 15 persons or more, and you all arrive in the grounds together.

On arrival, your group organiser will be directed to the entrance to confirm numbers and collect tickets on behalf of the group.

We accept all major debit and credit cards (not Amex or Diners), cash (pound sterling only) and cheques (payable to Hever Castle Limited). You can also pre-pay via bank transfer and invoice (for Credit Account Customers only, details upon application).

We offer free admission and a refreshment voucher to your coach driver. The voucher is redeemable in our restaurant or any refreshment kiosk. We also offer free admission for one leader per group.

Telephone
+44 (0)1732 861701

Email
groups@hevercastle.co.uk



HEVER CASTLE & GARDENS

AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER



HOW TO FIND US

Centrally located on the Kent, Surrey and Sussex borders, just 20 minutes from junctions 5 and 6 of the M25.

ADDRESS

Hever Castle, Hever,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NG

CONTACT US ON

e. groups@hevercastle.co.uk
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DISCOVER MORE AT

hevercastle.co.uk

