



SHERBORNE CASTLE



WELCOME TO SHERBORNE CASTLE

Welcome to Sherborne Castle, which has been our family home since 1617. We hope you will enjoy your visit. Built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594, this historic house reflects a variety of decorative styles from over 400 years of English history. We have nationally important collections of art, furniture and porcelain. The castle is brought to life through our “Great Stories” information sheets which highlight the castle’s key moments in history. There are Guides available to answer your questions.

Last admission to the castle is 4.15pm. If you buy tickets for the Gardens Only, entry to the Castle can be paid at the door. Our Grade 1 listed garden was one of Capability Brown’s first commissions giving us a magnificent English Landscape Garden which survives largely unaltered today. In the Cellar Museum we have an exhibition: Capability Brown at Sherborne Castle, which draws on the castle archives to tell the story of his work here.

We hope you will take the time to explore the beautiful gardens. Colour is

provided throughout the seasons, from spectacular displays of spring bulbs and daffodils, through Summer herbaceous borders to the breath taking colours of Autumn reflected in the lake.

The map overleaf has two suggested routes. If you would like to discover more, an interactive map is available at www.sherbornecastle.com/interactivemap and we also have a souvenir guide book which charts the history of the castle and gardens. Children may be interested in our Children’s pack which contains a Garden Trail and a Castle Quiz.

The Tearoom serves morning coffee, traditional light lunches (12 – 2.30pm) and delicious afternoon teas. The Gift Shop offers a variety of unusual souvenirs and gifts and our own Sherborne Castle Wines made from grapes grown on the Estate. We hope you enjoy your time here and thank you for visiting us. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

The Wingfield Digby Family



VISITOR INFORMATION

Gardens only tickets are valid for the entire day of admission within our opening hours. If you wish to leave the gardens and return later in the day please ask the staff member at the main gate Ticket Box to endorse your ticket. Please also ensure you have your ticket for re-admission when you return.

Health and Safety

We endeavour to provide a safe and healthy environment for visitors within the constraints of an historic property and as far as is reasonable and practicable. Please observe all notices during your visit, and follow any instructions given by staff. Occasionally, parts of the Castle and Gardens are required to be closed for essential maintenance; and in the case of the Gardens, in extreme weather conditions. Please do not enter cordoned off areas and observe any directions and signs accordingly.

Hazards Warning

Please be aware that there are staircases, steps and slopes to negotiate where care should be taken by all visitors. There is a large lake within the grounds, in which paddling or swimming is forbidden; children should be supervised at all times. Under no circumstances should anything be picked or eaten from the gardens. Some plants have sharp thorns and/or are poisonous. Visitors with back packs are asked to carry these by hand whilst in the Castle, or leave them at the Castle Reception.

Babies

Regrettably, we do not admit baby back pack carriers to the Castle, due to the dangers of low doorways,

steps and arches plus the high risk of damage to Castle contents; front sling carriers are admitted. Pushchairs are admitted at the discretion of the Castle staff.

Seating

Ample seating is provided around the gardens and castle. In the castle please ask a guide for advice on an appropriate seat.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome on short leads in the gardens. Please clear up the mess. Only guide and assistance dogs are permitted in the Castle, Tearoom and Shop.

Photography, Mobiles and Camera Phones

We welcome amateur photography within the gardens. We regret, however, that photography in the Castle is not permitted, this includes video cameras and mobile phones. No commercial use of photographs is permitted in any part of the estate without written permission.

Drones and Remote control Vehicles are prohibited from use in or over the grounds.

Picnics

Visitors are welcome to picnic in the gardens. Bar-b-ques or any other naked flame are not permitted.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted inside any building within the Castle Grounds.

Toilets

There are two sets of toilets both with disabled person and baby changing facilities: one in the Castle accessible from the Castle Yard, the other just outside the Castle Yard on route to the Car Park.

Wheelchairs

There is a permanent ramp in front of the Castle to enable disabled visitors to access the Castle interior from the East Lawn. There is no lift and the stairs leading to the first floor are narrow and numerous. We therefore regret that wheelchair access is restricted to the ground floor only, and that there is no wheelchair access to the upper or basement floors. A slide show is available to see the rooms inaccessible by wheelchair. Access to the gardens is unrestricted, however there are some steep paths to be negotiated to certain areas around the Castle, and on the north side of the lake.

Wet Umbrellas

To be left at the Castle reception please, and a member of staff will transfer the umbrella to a stand at the top of the stairs leading down to Raleigh’s kitchen; don’t forget to collect it on your way down to the basement.

Sherborne Castle ©2018

An interactive map is available at www.sherbornecastle.com/interactivemap



& ENGLISH LANDSCAPE GARDEN



VISITOR INFORMATION & MAP

Map Key

1. Main Entrance
2. Turkish Field Gun
3. Castle
4. Tearoom & Old Dairy with Roman mosaic
5. Toilets
6. Gift Shop
7. Game Larders & Ice House
8. Boat Shaped Bed & Herb Garden
9. Sunken Garden
10. The Circular Seat Bed & Stumpery
11. East Lakeside Bed
12. The Orangery & Ginkgo Lawn
13. The Boat House & Pier
14. Anemone Walk
15. Thatched Hut
16. South West Shrubbery
17. Castle Entrance Mound
18. The Stables/Estate Office
19. Maple Glade
20. West Lakeside Bed
21. Wisteria Bridge
22. Raleigh's Seat
23. Cascade
24. Dinney Bridge & Riverside Beds
25. Pope's Seat
26. Old Castle Corner
27. The Folly
28. Old Cedar Tree Lookout
29. Clairevoire
30. Earl Henry's Bridge
31. The Cedars
32. Dry Grounds Walk
33. Cork Oak Seat

Short Walk
 Long Walk

A Garden to enjoy in all seasons

Spring

As the garden warms up in early Spring, there are flowering bulbs, early magnolias and bright new foliage to enjoy. Daffodils are planted in drifts, and named varieties include 'Sherborne', 'Bridal Crown', 'Thalia', 'Cheerfulness' and the most scented of all, 'Avalanche'. Some trees have beautiful luminous foliage at this time, with flowers too; look out for *Acer negundo* 'Kellys Gold' with its long spaghetti-like stamens, and *Acer cappadocicum* 'Rubrum' with its red early foliage.

Summer

Heady scents and the green curtain of tall lakeside foliage draw the visitor along the walks, with constantly changing vistas over the lake to the Old Castle ruins, the Deer Park and the New Castle. In summer this historic landscape is seen in its prime. There are ancient Champion trees, as well as Weeping Lime with its intense fragrant flowers in July, the scented Magnolia *Grandiflora* with its dinner-plate sized flowers and glossy leaves.

Autumn

A campaign of planting provides spectacular autumn colours, which reflect beautifully in the waters of the lake. Some more unusual small trees seem to thrive under the Old Castle ramparts, such as *Parrotia persica*, *Acer campestre* 'William Caldwell' and over 30 named cultivars of Japanese maples make the camera a must.

Winter

Early snowdrops and aconites carpet the ground in winter, showing that a garden never sleeps. Fire-red *Cornus*, Alders with incredible catkins and fragrance from *Lonicera* all contribute to the magic of the gardens in winter.

The Head Gardener

An informative interactive map is available at www.sherbornecastle.com/interactivemap



Ruins of Old Sherborne Castle (English Heritage). No access from Gardens.



Castle Tearoom



Serving morning coffees, light lunches and delicious afternoon teas; enjoy them in the gardens when the weather is fine.



SHERBORNE CASTLE
 & ENGLISH LANDSCAPE GARDEN