

Dover Castle



We shall explore the tunnels, we shall climb the tower, we shall eat ice creams; we shall never go home.

Dover Castle is the most iconic of all English fortresses. Standing strong on the iconic White Cliffs, the castle is an imposing symbol of royal power and the country's historic struggle to maintain independence.



Its Great Tower, the grandest of the keeps built by the English kings in the 11th and 12th centuries stands over 25m high and 30m square, with walls up to 6.5m thick. Today visitors can relive some of England's most significant moments which took place at the castle, through a series of exciting and innovative historical recreations and interpretation. Marvel at the lavish furnishings designed to showcase the wealth and power of the king, and throughout the summer, see the castle brought to life by costumed actors from the royal court and times of King Henry II.

At the beginning of the Second World War the network of chalk-cut tunnels deep beneath Dover Castle – begun in 1797 to counter the threat of invasion from Napoleonic France - was recommissioned and further enlarged. They became Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay's bomb-proof naval headquarters where 75 years ago the Dunkirk evacuation was planned and commanded.

Visitors to Dover Castle today can witness the 'Miracle of Dunkirk' for themselves as they tour the tunnels' Operation Dynamo: Rescue from Dunkirk experience. This combines original news-reels and recordings, testimonies from veterans of both the beaches and the tunnels, and state-of-the-art special effects to deliver a vivid account of what Sir Winston Churchill called a "miracle of deliverance". See, hear and feel the danger as you witness the story for yourself.

A separate tour takes in the Underground Hospital constructed in another level of the labyrinth of tunnels, while an exhibition, café and shop complete the tour in this area of the Castle.

In recent months, a WWI Fire Command Post and Port War Signal Station has been opened for visitors. This tells the important story of Dover's role during the First World War, as well as offering a stunning view across the port and English Channel. The unique adjacent WWI Antiaircraft gun has just been restored to working order,

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and authentic gun drills are now performed to visitors at 1pm on weekends from July to October.

Explore the acres of castle grounds which include the Roman Lighthouse and Saxon Church or simply roam the ramparts and take in the stunning views across to France. The medieval tunnels, dark and winding are an atmospheric corner of the castle not to miss and with plenty of options to recharge in the cafes and restaurant, a visit to Dover Castle is truly one to remember.



Facilities :

Restaurant
Cafes and Shops by Great Tower and Wartime Tunnels
Ice Cream Parlour in summer
Toilets
Land train + mobility scooters
Picnic Area
Visitor Car Parking

Opening Times:

Daily April—October
10am-5pm
(August open 9.30am-6pm)
Weekends Nov—March
10am-4pm.

Car park opens at site opening time. Last tours start 1hr before closing.

Annual Special Events 2016:

Fairytale Castle—15 to 19 February
Children's Festival— 25 to 28 March
George & the Dragon—23/24 April
WWII Weekend—28 to 30 May
Roman Festival—30/31 July
Siege of 1216—13/14 August
Clash of Knights the Finale—27 to 29 August
Medieval Falconry—3/4 and 10/11 September
Haunted Castle—22 to 30 October



Contact details for trade enquiries:

Tel. : 01304 211 067
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Directions and distance from Central London:

An hour by train or car from London.

By Road - Direct from London down the A2/M2, and can also easily reach the castle by travelling down the M20/A20. Coach parking offsite in Castle Hill Road car park.

By Rail - Nearest Station Dover Priory—direct High Speed trains from London St Pancras. Taxis available outside the station, or a 20min walk through the town.

By Sea - Direct ferry crossings to Calais and Dunkirk from the Port of Dover at the bottom of the cliff.

By Air - Fly to any London airport and travel by train or road to Dover via London or the M25.