



Social Guide

A Trip To Dublin Castle

**An introduction for first-time visitors, families,
or visitors with extra needs**

We are visiting Dublin Castle. It is a complex of buildings in the heart of Dublin city. The places that we can visit include the State Apartments, beautifully furnished rooms in a 300 year old building, the chapel and the underground excavation.

We can read this guide to learn about the castle, the staff who can help us with our visit, and some of the things we can do there.

Entrance

There are three gates to get to the State Apartments in the upper courtyard.



This is a picture of the main Palace Street gate off busy Dame Street.



This is a picture of the Castle Street gate beside City Hall.



This is a picture of the Ship Street gate at the back of the castle, which takes us past the garden around the chapel, towards the State Apartments.

Entering the State Apartments



Our first stop will be the State Apartments. This is where we can get our tickets, find out more information and look around the facilities.



The Entrance Hall



When we enter the State Apartments we will be in an entrance hall. We will see a sign directing us to the ticket desk on the left. We may see a group of thirty people gathered in the entrance hall for a guided tour. When we go to the left we will see the ticket desk and the information desk with staff members to help us.



Helpful Staff



The staff at Dublin Castle are all very friendly and happy to help us. We can ask them our questions about the castle and they will help us find an answer. We will see them at the ticket desk and the information desk. There will be a security person in uniform at the front door who is also here to help us.



The Ticket Desk

The ticket desk is where we choose our ticket to see inside the castle. There may be a queue of people waiting to get tickets. We will wait patiently with them until we reach the front of the queue.



We will meet a staff member at the ticket desk. We can ask them for a ticket for a one hour guided tour with a group, or a ticket to visit the State Apartments by ourselves. Reading this social guide will explain the difference.

Visiting The State Apartments



If we get a ticket to visit the State Apartments by ourselves, we will be given a booklet of information about the rooms, including a map layout of the rooms. We can look around eleven formally furnished rooms at our own pace. We will show our ticket at the information desk and put our backpacks in the lockers.

The Information Desk



The information desk is sometimes a busy spot in the castle. The staff member at the desk will ask to check our tickets before we look at the rooms. We can put our backpacks in the locker room before we look around the other rooms. This person is here to help with any questions we have about the castle, the facilities or the surrounding area.

The Locker Room



We can bring small shoulder bags around the State Apartments with us but we must put our backpacks in the free self-service lockers. There are instructions about how to use the lockers on signs around the locker room.

Guided Tour



If we want to see the chapel and the underground excavation, we must be with a guided tour. If we get a ticket to go on a one hour guided tour we will be given a wristband and a specific time to meet the guide in the entrance hall. The guide will take us with a group of up to thirty people. They will take us outside across the courtyard, then underground to see the medieval excavation, then into the chapel, then back to see the state rooms in the State Apartments.

If we want a private tour, we can email dublincastle@opw.ie to arrange that.



The State Apartments

We can walk around these rooms guided with a group or by ourselves with an information booklet. We can take as many photos as we'd like except for flash photography and video recording. We can access the rooms upstairs by the grand staircase or we can ask a staff member to take us to the lift.



The Grand Staircase



The Drawing Room



The State Corridor



The James Connolly Room



St. Patrick's Hall



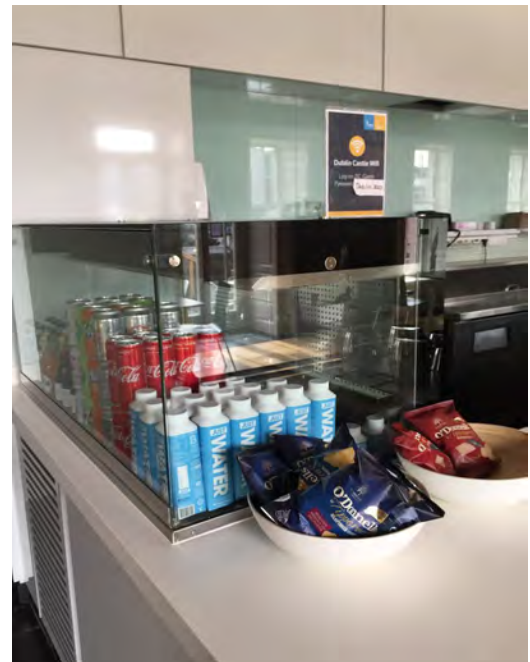
The Throne Room

The Facilities

There are signs on the ground floor of the building to help us find the café, the toilets, the locker room, the gardens and the exit.

The café has sandwiches, salads, snacks and drinks.

The toilets are located beside the ticket desk, not far from the café.



In The Castle

When we go around the State Apartments, let's remember to follow this plan:

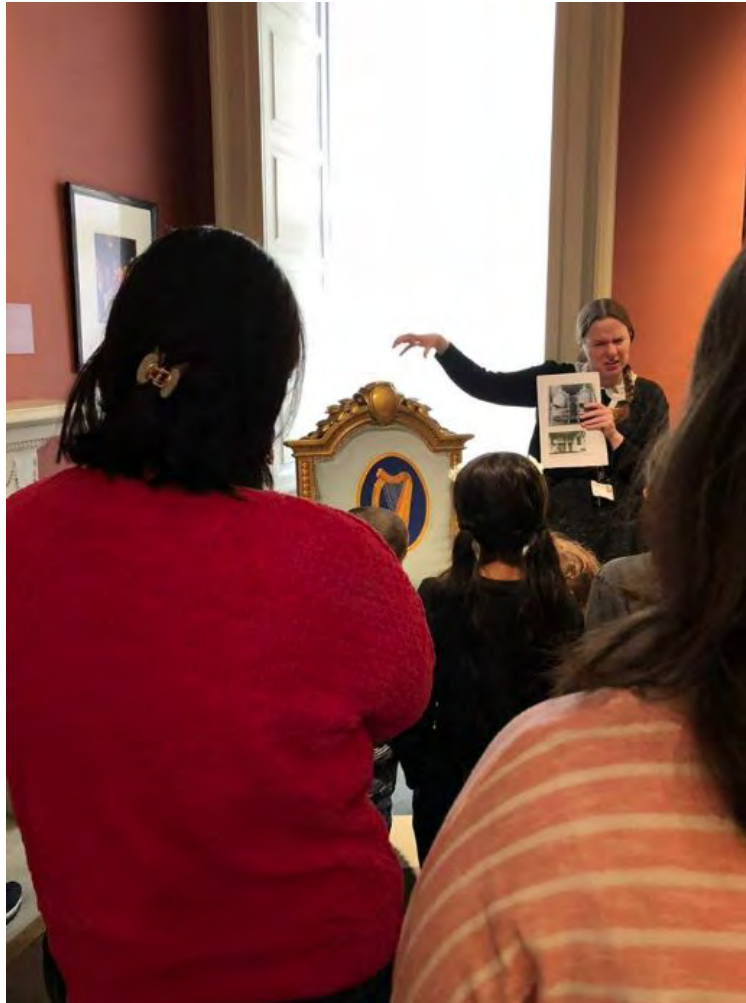
We will be careful of the furniture and paintings.

We will speak quietly when on tour and when we come across a tour group.

We will wait until we leave the palace rooms before eating.



Activities



We can pick up a 'Family Trail', an 'Animal Adventure' activity sheet, an 'Architectural Family Activity' beside the ticket desk or we can print it at home from the website: <https://www.dublincastle.ie/activity-sheets/>

Pencils are available at the information desk.

Exiting the State Apartments

We can stay in the State Apartments for a long time or a short time. When we want to leave, we can exit the castle beside the entrance hall or through the café. Once outside in the courtyard or the gardens, we can use any of the three gates to get out of the castle grounds.



More Information

Everyone is welcome at Dublin Castle. We offer a variety of activity sheets on site and online: <https://www.dublincastle.ie/activity-sheets/>

For more information about accessing the castle, requesting a private tour, booking tickets online or the history of the buildings you can visit the website or email the helpful staff.

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