

Social Guide

A trip to Ferns Castle

Introduction

We are going on a trip to Ferns Castle.

It is the ruins of a massive castle that originally had huge towers at each corner but only about half remains. It is located in the village of Ferns, County Wexford.



In this story we'll learn about how to enter the castle, meet some of the people that work there and find out what we can expect to see during our visit.

The Entrance to Ferns Castle



The entrance into the grounds of Ferns Castle is from the street outside, when we go through the gate we will see the castle to our left but on our right is a visitor centre that we must go into before we go to the castle.

Inside we can see the reception desk to our right. The person behind the desk is there to assist us with our visit and they will tell us where to go to see the rest of the tower.

If there are people at the desk before us we will have to wait until they are finished before the person there can help us.

The Guides



The people at the reception desk are friendly and welcoming Guides that work in the castle, we might see them in other parts of the castle as well.

When we have questions we can ask the Guides and they can help us find an answer. They can also tell us about what we can see here.

If we can't find our family or friends we should look for one of the Guides to help us.

Getting Around the Visitor Centre



Before we can visit the castle we might have to wait a little bit if we are going on a guided tour. While we wait we can have a look around the visitor centre.

There are toilets in the visitor centre that we can use if we want to.

There are also things to see like some very old stone crosses.

On the walls there is a set of beautiful tapestries that tell the story of Ferns and we can have a look at these if we want to.

Getting Around the Castle



When we are ready to go into the castle we will follow the gravel path and cross a bridge over the moat. The moat was built to help stop attackers.

Inside the castle we will see the ruined walls of the castle. There are lots of low walls but we shouldn't climb on these, not climbing keeps us safe and also makes sure the castle doesn't get damaged.

As we explore we should walk and not run around to make sure we don't trip and hurt ourselves.

A Guided Tour of the Tower



We can visit one of the towers but we can only do this if we go on a guided tour with one of the Guides. We will follow them up the steps to the door, we must mind our step.

Inside the tower can seem dark, especially if we just came in from the sunshine outside so we should give our eyes a moment to adjust.

Inside the tower we will see a room that was used as a chapel and we will also get to go to the very top of the tower if we want to. We must be careful when walking in the tower to make sure we don't trip and hurt ourselves.

The Stairs inside the Tower



There is only one way to climb to the different floors in tower, the original stairs. These stairs are very old and not like stairs we build today.

The steps are different heights so we have to be careful and not run on them. There is a handrail we can use to help us climb.

The stairs are narrow so we can only go up one by one.

The Top of the Tower



At the top of the tower we can look over the village of Ferns and the surrounding countryside.

The tower is very high so we have to be very careful when we are at the top.

We must not climb on any of the walls at the top it would be dangerous for us to do that.

We must listen to what the Guide tells us, as well as the history of the castle they are telling us things that will keep us safe during our visit.

Leaving the Castle



To leave Ferns Castle we go back along the gravel path, past the visitor centre and out the gate to the footpath outside.

Before we leave we can go back into the visitor centre and ask the Guide at the reception desk for a map showing us where other Heritage Sites are around Ireland.



OPW

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