

# Crathes Castle, Garden & Estate for schools

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Crathes Castle (Banchory) a 16th-century tower house, has remarkable painted ceilings and collections of family portraits and vernacular furniture, some of it contemporary with the building of the castle.

Royal historic associations date from 1323, when the lands of Leys were granted to the Burnett family by King Robert the Bruce. The Horn of Leys, said to symbolise the gift, is in the Great Hall.

The spectacular walled garden is a composite of eight separate gardens, which include herbaceous borders with many unusual plants. The great yew hedges dating from 1702 are fascinating examples of the art of topiary. The grounds comprise 600-acres of designed landscape and are easily accessible via waymarked trails.

## ● education programme

Crathes Castle is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the 5-14 Curriculum

### a site visit offers

- a guided tour of the Castle  
examples of Castle Tours – Storytime in the Great Hall for Nursery, P1 and P2 classes; A Castle for a Home, adapted to complement class topic work, for primary classes. Tours for older children can be arranged to suit individual needs. Childrens costumes available for tours.
- Ranger Service  
Activity based tours which include Marvellous Minibeasts, Freshwater Life and Trees for Living. In-Service training sessions are arranged for teachers.
- wayfaring courses
- access to woodland, a river and ponds
- six marked trails
- Visitor Centre with interactive displays

### classroom resources

- education pack and teachers' notes
- *Young Persons' Guide to Crathes Castle* (available on request)
- illustrated guidebook (available on request)

## ● practical information

### planning your visit

- Availability: all visits must be arranged in advance by telephoning the Castle Office on 01330 844525 or the Ranger Service on 01330 844651. We advise booking 4 weeks in advance
- Cost: children in school parties are charged £1. Accompanying adults admitted free of charge. Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland allows free entry to all NTS properties. Further details on request.
- preparation: we welcome a free preparatory visit by the teacher

### during your visit

- visiting teachers are responsible for discipline
- Shop: the NTS shop is open during the castle's opening hours - please visit the shop in small numbers to avoid overcrowding
- toilets: situated near the Visitor Centre

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## ● for more information contact

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