

Castle Fraser for schools

Castle Fraser, one of the magnificent castles of Mar, was begun about 1575 by the sixth laird, Michael Fraser, and incorporates earlier building. Two great families of master masons, Bel and Leiper, took part in the work, which was completed in 1636. The armorial panel high on the wall on the north side is signed 'I Bel'. The exterior has had few additions and changes so it provides a clear idea of what a laird's castle looked like from the outside in the 17th century. An ornate heraldic shield of stone, shows the arms of James VI, above the modern entrance.

The interior, unlike the exterior has undergone many changes to suit the changing needs of the Frasers and their successors. Rooms on view include an ancient kitchen, a library, and Victorian bedrooms. In the Worked Room there are needlework bedhangings, curtains and seats. Artefacts on show include Fraser family relics from the Peninsular War such as an early 19th-century artificial leg and a cocked hat which saved a soldier's life in battle.

The walled garden is laid out to look as it would have in Victorian times. Two waymarked trails make the 350-acre estate easily accessible.

● education programme

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

a site visit offers

- a tour of the property (allow 1_ hours)
- historical costumes for children's use
- handling objects
- Ranger Service (tel: 01330 844651)

classroom resources

- illustrated guidebook (available on request)
- *Young Person's Guide to Castle Fraser* (available on request)

● practical information

planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential
- Ranger Service must be pre-booked
- maximum class size: 30 with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 children
- cost for school parties: children £1 - accompanying adults admitted free of charge
- Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland allows free entry to all NTS properties
- preparation: we welcome a free preparatory visit by the teacher

during your visit

- please note: visiting teachers are responsible for discipline
- on arrival: please report to the Property Manager
- picnic facilities: picnic area available by the playground or, by prior arrangement
- Woodland's Secret Play area
- shop: open during the property's opening hours - please visit in small numbers to avoid overcrowding
- toilets: situated in the courtyard

● for more information contact

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