

Adventure



Outdoor Education
& Fun... in a Castle

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How old are we ?

The original manor house at Ford was built in the 13th century. As a result of its border location, Ford found itself beset by attacks from North and South and from, amongst others, Edward I (Hammer of the Scots) and Robert Bruce. By 1341, Ford was granted licence to be held as a castle and became part of the border defences.

Further turbulence ensued and in September 1513 James IV of Scotland, making the most of Henry VIII's absence in France, invaded England, his forces taking, amongst others, Ford Castle where James himself took up temporary residence in readiness for the battle on Flodden Field. Unfortunately for James, and many Scottish lords, he tarried long enough at Ford Castle to allow Lord Surrey time to march north to Flodden.

Another notable owner, Lady Waterford, inherited the Castle in 1859 from her husband. Assuming the role of Victorian benefactress, the famous watercolourist, Lady Waterford re-built the village of Ford a short distance from its original site with several amenities including well-built cottages for her tenants, a school, bridges, roads and woods. Her watercolours remain on view in the Lady Waterford Hall, depicting religious scenes and featuring locals who posed for her.

More recently, the Lord Joicey family, bought first Ford Castle in 1907 and later Etal Castle in 1908 to form the Ford & Etal estate. The Estate has adapted and improved through times of great upheaval in agriculture and rural life. Indeed, through effective and forward-thinking land management practices with conservation at their heart, the Estate has prospered.

That urge to see the Estate work at many levels has continued with Ford Castle opening as an outdoor residential centre in 1956, run by Northumberland County Council (NCC). Local schoolchildren have benefited from the educational courses and activities at the Castle ever since.

Re-launched in 2012, once again as a residential centre for schoolchildren, but this time run as a joint venture between NCC and Château Beaumont as Ford Castle Adventure Ltd. Now open to all schools across Britain, Ford Castle gives children the opportunity to sleep in a real, Medieval castle; have a go at some adventurous activities; take advantage of our educational courses and fieldwork trips; or explore some of the region's natural, cultural and historical sites. All of this whilst staying at the Castle, perhaps even in James's own room

Château Beaumont has successfully owned and run an Outdoor Education Centre in France for over 13 years now, bonded by the TTA, holders of the LOTC Quality Badge and the AAIAC Adventuremark, Château Beaumont is also a member of BAPA. Our ethos is learning through fun and we insist on being small enough to care but big enough to deliver whatever you're looking for in your school trip. Our guests are never just a number and will never feel lost whilst staying with us.

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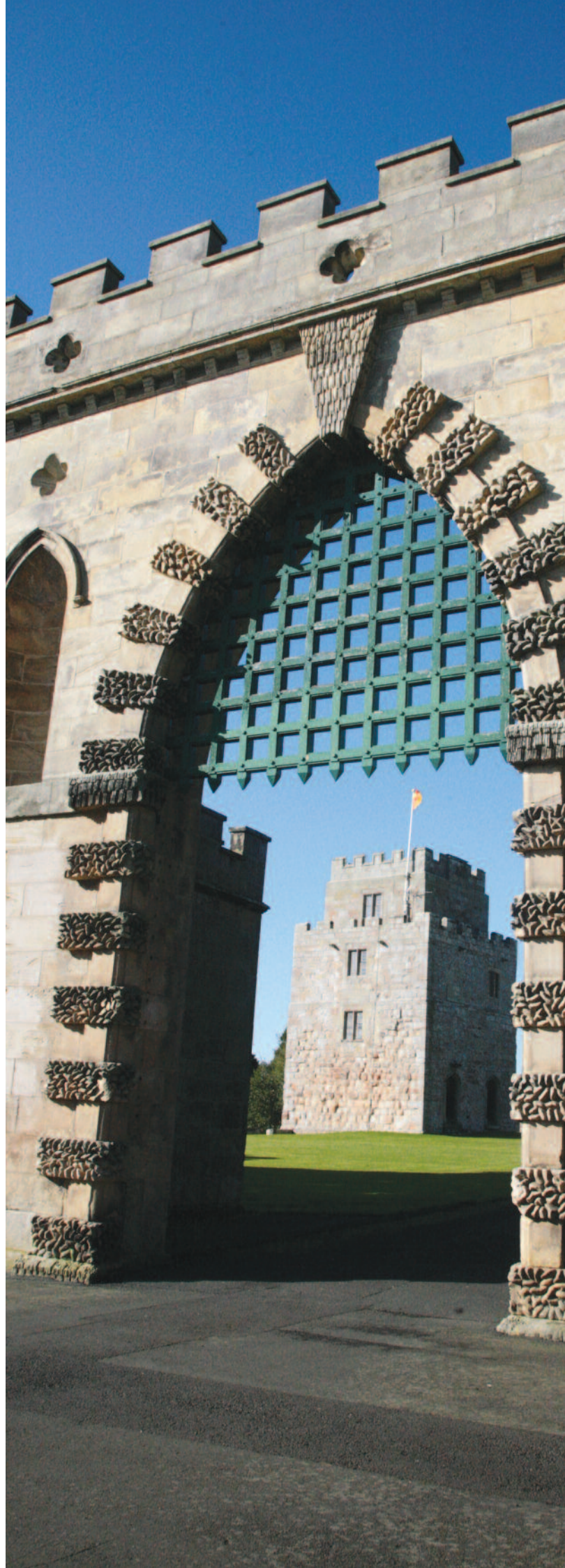
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Adventurous Activities

The wide range of activities at Ford Castle ensures that there is something for everyone although most will suit all. Some will help team-building skills, others will encourage children to step outside their comfort zone and there is the opportunity to try something new to test skill and agility.

The Castle that keeps you active



If you're looking for something in keeping with the Castle experience, or to exercise a little skill, we have:

Fencing - good hand-eye coordination, agility and speed are needed if you're not going to be foiled here

Archery - a good aim, strength and skill will help to get on-target

Joust! - Excellent riding skills, a strong lance arm, nerves of steel and . . . well maybe not; perhaps a fun game with a nod to Gladiators of old!



Knights' Quest - An indoor assault course for our aspiring Lancelots, with the odd mishap along the way

Siege - This is 'Capture the Flag' but big time. A great team game in the most fabulous setting around the Castle

Jesting Skills - Such as juggling, a bit of (white) magic, plate-spinning or Diablo-twirling will require quite a lot of concentration and coordination



Potions - Perfectly safe and quite tasty if you have a penchant for Brussels with yoghurt. Don't forget that they're making this with you in mind!

Thrill 'em, don't spill 'em
(too much)

Zip Wire - Hurtling across a wooded gorge with many an oooh and an eek, this is a challenge with a huge adrenalin rush followed by a terrific sense of achievement.

Crate Stacking - Build and balance. Which pair can get the highest in this timed challenge?

Postman's Walk - Includes Balance Beam and Hanging Vines and the choice is yours, but the higher you go the greater the risk of a fall.

Jacob's Ladder - Working in pairs this is less of a step class and more of a clambering exercise

High All Aboard - Climbing this (fairly!) big pole is a great achievement but it's what comes next that's the real challenge.

Leap of Faith - Well, as its name suggests, if you go for it, you'll make it, but onlookers may need ear protectors

Cliff Climbing - Close to the Castle, a chance to test skill and agility on real cliffs with trained instructors to encourage and help when needed.

Canoeing - On the nearby River Till, a safe and very pretty environment. This is great exercise, lots of fun and with a BCU qualified instructor, the opportunity to learn a new skill.

All additional wood used for our Rope Course and Zip Wire is FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified



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Teambuilding Challenges

Teamwork's the Key

These activities are great fun and really do engender bonding amongst the groups taking part

NightLine - Blackout goggles force participants to rely on their other senses and on each other. Old clothes are definitely recommended though; leave the Gucci at home and we'll provide the mudpacks!:

Initiative Exercises - As the name suggests, this is problem solving, but of a physical, practical nature, requiring groups to work together with help from an instructor if needed. There is an indoor option available as well.

Beach Games - As the coast is so close and Northumberland has some of the most beautiful sandy beaches in the country, why not take advantage, get some sea air and, amongst other things, check who's been paying attention to the architecture of the Castle with a sand castle competition

Enigma - Codes, Ciphers and some problem-solving can save aspiring James Bonds from a gooey fate.

Explore!

Eco Trails - Either field or coastal, this is a brilliant opportunity to learn about some of the flora and fauna of the area around the Castle or on the nearby coast. Both of these very different habitats are fascinating and fun to investigate with our trained guides and examine the impact of the modern world upon them.



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Safety

Belt & Braces

Safety is always our priority and we take every possible precaution to ensure the well being of our visitors.

Ford Castle is part of the Château Beaumont Group with over 13 years experience of running an Outdoor Education Centre that takes groups of British schoolchildren and gives them a flavour of France. Bonded by the TTA, holders of the LOTC Quality Badge and the AAIAC Adventuremark, Château Beaumont is also a member of BAPA. As such our centres are rigorously inspected to ensure that they meet the high standards set by BAPA.

Risk Assessments are, of course, available for all aspects of the Centre's operation.

There is a fire drill on the day of arrival so that everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of an emergency

Our staff are trained to take responsibility for the safety of the children in their care and to make their stay at the Castle both fun and educational. All of our staff are selected for their enthusiasm and aptitude to work with children. CRB checks are carried out on all members of staff, who undergo comprehensive in-house training. Instructors hold NGB (National Governing Body) certificates where applicable:

- Canoeing: BCU – British Canoeing Union
- Fencing: BFA – British Fencing Association Leaders Award
- Cliff Climbing: MIC Accreditation – Association of Mountaineering Instructors
- Zip Wire: Site specific, managed by NIC accredited adviser
- High Ropes: Site specific, managed by NIC accredited adviser
- Archery: GNAS – Grand National Archery Society



Amongst our staff, several are First Aiders and all are trained in our established accident and incident procedures.

Perfect for school groups, the Castle is a private site and no one may enter without authorisation. All of our staff wear a uniform, they know everyone on site and will apprehend anyone who is neither guest nor staff.

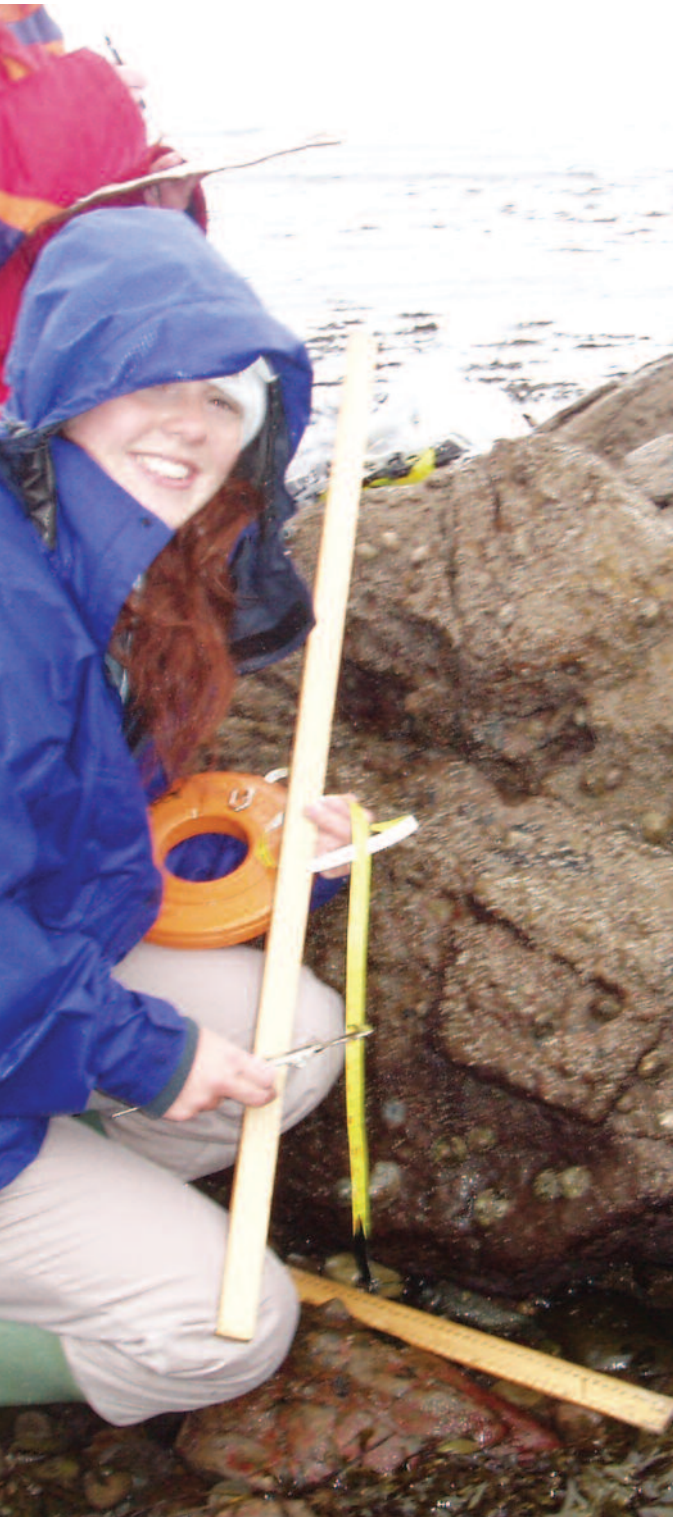
All of the Centre's equipment is routinely tested and repaired/replaced as necessary, with records kept, and checked again prior to each use.

Exciting Castle Courses

Bringing the curriculum to life can be a challenge, but not here. Learning outside the classroom at Ford Castle is fun, friendly and effective.

The Castle, its environs and ready proximity to many sites such as the Roman Wall, Holy Island, Craggside House, the Cheviot Hills, and the River Till mean we are ideally placed to effectively target many subjects. Furthermore, the beautiful coastline of Northumberland is close by, enabling the study of beach, rockpools and dunes.

National Curriculum requirements in History, Science, Geography and Citizenship for Key Stages 2 and 3 are covered as well as various topics for GCSE or A-Level groups.



Key Stage 2 & 3

Young Explorers

Geology, Geography and Biology are brought to life with this fully planned week of investigations, trips and exciting activities.

Time Travellers

The study of ages past with excursions that provide the means to interact with ages past. Choose from: Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Tudors or Victorians

The Sword at Ford

A blend of activities including Archery and Fencing combined with a course covering the Romans, Vikings, Flodden Field and Castles as defensive structures.

Nature Rangers

Study the flora and fauna of Ford and the surrounding area and then enjoy the activities that they give rise to such as cliff climbing and canoeing.

Thrills, Spills and Hills

A combination of our exciting activities plus a choice of environmentally driven subjects from History, Science or Geography

Historical Study

Romans, Vikings, Saxons, Battles, Castles, Victorians, Modern History... Choose a period and topic for investigation, analysis and interpretation, and then place in a timeline to illustrate chronology.

Human Geography

Man and the Landscape: students study how the landscape has shaped man and vice versa.

Choose from:

- Cash and Conservation: the impact of tourism
- Husbandry Versus Industry: the relationship between agriculture and industry and its effects on demographics, health and so forth

Biology

Ecosystems and Me: a study of habitats around Ford Castle and the relationships between animals, plants and their environment. This includes the impact of man on such systems.



Learning at Ford

At Ford Castle we employ the same ethos that underlies our success at Château Beaumont. Essentially, this means **learning through fun, safely**. Learning outside the classroom, with fun, works extremely well for our visitors.

We strongly believe in being flexible and remain small enough to be able to do that. At our centres, visitors are treated as guests. We find out what you're looking for through the pre-visit liaison and carry that through when you arrive. Customer service is key to everything we do; we understand that teachers have enough to do without the additional admin of a school trip, so we do that for you.

School trips are important and can produce great results, sometimes where least expected. Our aim is to make things as easy and straightforward for the Party Leader as possible whilst delivering the best school trip where our young visitors will learn without even realising it, have a brilliant time on our activities and return with increased self-confidence. We also provide worksheets that can be used as a base for extensions to the excursions and courses back in the classroom.

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Out & about Explore!

This beautiful and diverse region is rich in history and culture. While staying at Ford Castle you can choose from a variety of interactive excursions that show visitors what life on the Roman Wall was really like; how early Christians managed to survive on Lindisfarne, creating the beautiful, illuminated gospels in spite of the onslaught of the Vikings; or the Victorian achievements on show at Cragside House where fascinating gadgets hint at the active mind of Lord Armstrong, creator of the first house to be lit by hydro-electricity.





'A privilege
to be here'

Geography and Biology courses also include fieldwork trips to a variety of habitats including the coast, the River Till, the Cheviot Hills and the Farne Islands. Many school groups choose to visit one of these areas as part of their visit.

There are half-day trips to closer sites including the village of Ford itself where you can find the horseshoe door to the 'Smiddy' and paintings by former owner of Ford Castle, Lady Waterford in the Hall that bears her name; Flodden battlefield walk; Dunstanburgh Castle with the scenic approach from Craster; Berwick-upon-Tweed – allegedly still at war with Russia(!) – a trip that can be combined with a stop-off at the Honey Farm; or Bamburgh, with its iconic castle, fabulous beaches, dunes and home to Grace Darling.

Slightly further away and certainly worth a day's visit are Edinburgh, "The most beautiful of all the capitals of Europe"; Alnwick Castle, home to Harry Potter in his early Hogwarts days and with

amazing gardens and Treehouse with rope bridges; the 'perfect little city' of Durham has links with Lindisfarne as the final resting place of both Cuthbert and Bede in the magnificent cathedral; or Beamish Museum where, amongst many other things, children can learn firsthand what it was like to be at school a hundred years ago, both in the classroom and playground.

York provides an ideal stop-off visit for schools coming from the South, or as an overnight stay from the Castle, there's so much to see including the Minster, National Railway Museum, The Dungeon, Shambles and with a further historical link to Lindisfarne, the Jorvik Viking Centre.

Our talented, well-trained Group Leaders will accompany you and enhance the learning benefits of each visit, whilst students will learn because they are engaged by what they experience and our educational resources become a means of retention and useful reference back in the classroom.

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Evening

Entertainments & Diversions

After a delicious evening meal, there are various entertainments to keep everyone happy and occupied until bedtime. These are led by our staff, but we welcome and encourage the participation of accompanying teachers. There will always be a fire drill on the first day so that everyone knows where to go and what to do in case of an emergency.

Grail Hunt

This is a great way of getting to know the layout of the Castle and therefore works well on the first night. A series of clues, puzzles and questions, leads our intrepid hunters to various intriguing artefacts and completion of the quest. Our staff will always be on-hand to help out if needed.

Castle Olympics

Team games such as Tug of War, Three-legged Race and Sack Race. Dependent on the weather but great fun and the Castle makes a beautiful setting



Medieval Night

One of the highlights of your Castle visit. Please encourage everyone to join in and bring a costume; anything from serf to lord, jester to lady, or knight in armour. There will be a Medieval banquet and games such as apple dipping, fencing, jousting and the stocks.

Talent Show and Disco

Very popular with our guests and certainly the provider of many a photo opportunity. This is a great favourite with all of our visitors



Facilities

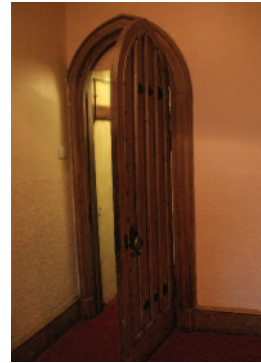
A visit to Ford Castle is truly special; our visitors live and breathe the history that resonates around it's walls. Everyone is given a tour of the Castle from towers to dungeons.

Whilst the Castle is Medieval, there have been some modifications since then, to ensure the comfort of our guests, including comfortable beds and bathroom facilities to replace straw mattresses, garderobes and water from the well!

Castle Chambers

Your chambers are within the 14th century castle. Student rooms sleep between 6 and 12 and have adjacent bathrooms.

Most teachers' rooms are single occupancy and all have tea and coffee making facilities with dedicated teachers' bathrooms. The Duty Manager secures all buildings at lights out to ensure on site safety.



Good Trencher

All visits are fully-catered. Meals at Ford Castle are home-cooked, nutritious and filling. Updated slightly from Medieval times, whilst maintaining a flavour of Old England, the menus are created with young people in mind and special dietary requirements are always catered for.

Meals on site are taken in one of the Castle dining rooms.

Packed lunches are provided when the group is on an excursion and on the day of departure if necessary.

To Battle!

All specialist equipment such as harnesses, buoyancy aids and helmets are provided. We also have waterproofs, boots and backpacks, but visitors are encouraged to bring their own, especially if they are worn-in and comfortable.

All of our equipment is routinely tested and repaired/replaced as necessary and records kept. All equipment is checked again before each use.

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Information for Teachers



Despite the benefits of a residential school trip, we know how stressful it is to organise one. **We're here to help.**

At Ford Castle, we'll plan your visit for you. We'll even arrange your transport if you'd prefer. You can rely on us to provide the best school trip and look after the details, so you can get on with your busy timetable.

Planning Service

This ensures your party gets the most from your trip. You choose which course, activities and excursions you'd like and we'll put your itinerary together

Transport

If you'd like, we can arrange transport with one of our preferred coach companies:

- Full service from pick-up to drop-off at your school
- Transport for excursions whilst staying at the Castle only
- All drivers are experienced, hold a PCV licence and are CRB checked.

Supportive Staff

In order to ensure that you get a break too, our staff are on duty from before breakfast until after bedtime, although we encourage teachers to join in with activities and evening entertainment. You will have a Group Leader who is there to answer your queries and check that you have the best trip ever.

Help is at Hand

A Duty Manager secures all buildings at lights out and is on call throughout the night should you need any

Insurance

We offer a comprehensive insurance package should you require it.

Health & Safety

Risk Assessments are available prior to your visit. Health and Safety is managed by our staff, but if you have any queries there is always someone senior on-site to answer questions and put your mind at ease

Free Time

Facilities at Ford Castle ensure that your group enjoys every moment of their school trip.

The Teachers' Retreat has television; complementary tea, coffee, wine and beer, and provides a quiet respite should you need it

- Students' Common Rooms have pool, TV / DVD facilities and a variety of indoor games
- Football Pitch
- Classroom Facilities
- King James's Suite – perfect for story-telling and setting the mood
- Payphone for use by children and teachers

Accompanying teachers must supervise the above children's activities, whilst the Teachers' Retreat is off-limits to children

Wish you were here

Fax and e-mail facilities are available, so you can keep in touch with those still at school if you wish



Booking Details

At flexible Ford you can stay for as long as you like, from 1 to 4 nights during the week or over a weekend. You can arrange your own transport or leave that to us. Just choose the type of visit you'd like and we'll take care of the rest.

1. Provisional Booking

Call us to check availability, discuss the type of course you wish to follow and make a provisional booking. We'll send you an Information Pack and confirm the price of your holiday.

2. Confirmation of Booking

Confirm your booking by sending us your first (non-refundable) deposit*:

- 25% + VAT (where your holiday costs £200 or more, per party member)
- £40 + VAT (where your holiday costs less than £200 per party member)

together with your Dorm Allocation and Itinerary Choices forms. We'll confirm your booking in writing to you once we have received this.

3. Second Deposit

Eight weeks later the second (non-refundable) deposit is payable:

- 40% + VAT (where your holiday costs £200 or more, per party member)
- 60% + VAT (where your holiday costs less than £200 per party member)

4. Final payment

Your final balance payment should be received no later than six weeks before your arrival date. Final Information including travel details, itinerary and dorm allocation will be sent to you approximately four weeks prior to your visit.

* Where booking is six weeks or less before arrival date, we will require the full amount to be paid immediately

Your holiday price includes

Full board and accommodation
Travel arrangements, where requested
Full programme of activities and entertainments from breakfast to bedtime
Entry costs, with some exceptions; confirm at time of booking
One free adult place for every eight full-paying pupils
Full services of Castle Ford staff both prior to and during your stay
Itinerary planning

For full terms and conditions please check our website: www.ford-castle.co.uk

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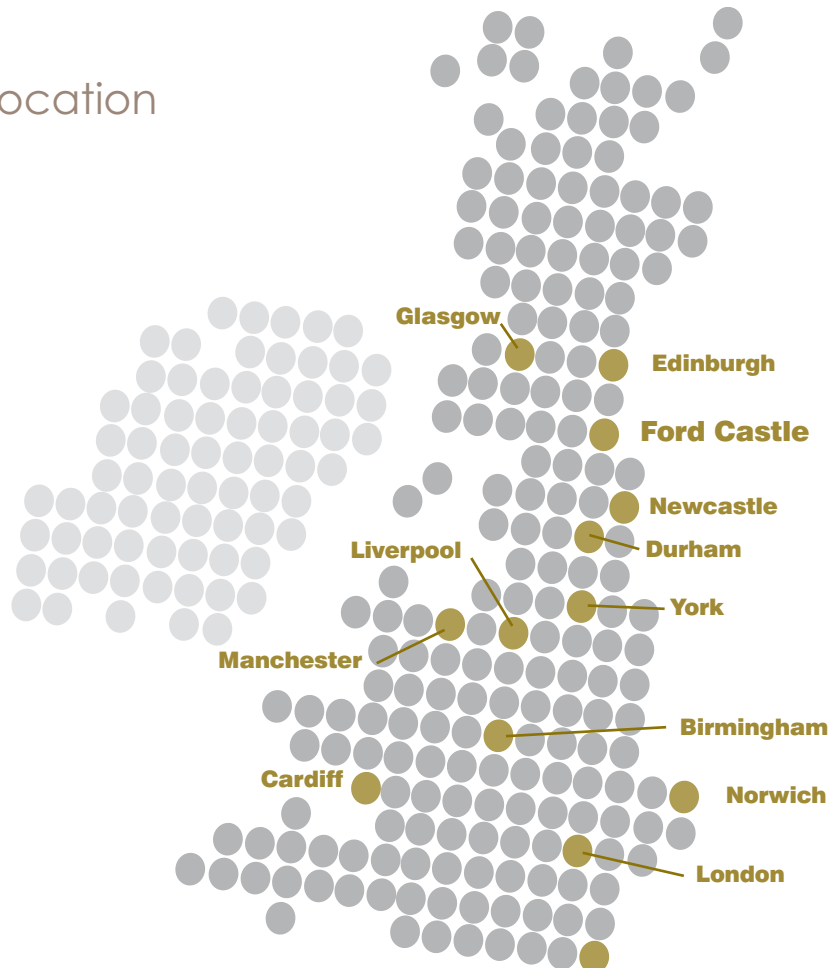
Where we are

Ford Castle is close to Berwick and the Scottish border with the wonderful Northumberland coast, Holy Island, the Farnes and Bamburgh nearby. Inland are the Cheviot Hills and some unique flora and fauna.

There are many sites of historic interest such as Alnwick Castle and Cragside, not to mention the Roman Wall with, of course, Flodden battlefield and the village of Ford itself.

Slightly further afield, but still within easy reach are Edinburgh, Durham, Newcastle and even York.

Location



Tel: 0844 800 4278