



BERKELEY CASTLE

A visit to Berkeley Castle - what does it include?

How long should we allow?

Castle	45 – 90 minutes	
Gardens	20 – 60 minutes	
Butterfly House	10 - 20 minutes	(when available)

Approximate Length of Visit **1½ - 3 hours**

Refreshments from the Yurt. The Butterfly House and Shop are within the Walled Garden.

Guided Tours

Join the next guided tour (subject to availability but usually every half hour) at the Keep Steps. The guided tour is included within the admission price and lasts just over 1hr and is highly recommended.

King's Gallery, Tower Room & Picture Gallery

The tour starts in the King's Gallery, where Edward II was held prisoner and later murdered, the dungeon is always popular with the children! Visitors then visit the Tower Room and Picture Gallery, where many stunning paintings are located.

Dining Room

Visitors then take the steps down to the Dining Room which was once the Billiard Room where the Berkeley silver and family portraits are now displayed.

Larders, Buttery & Kitchen

The tour then proceeds through the larders, buttery and kitchen, all of which contain features of their original use, including lead-lined sinks, open fires with a roasting spit, meat hooks, floor drainage and kitchen paraphernalia.

China Room

Queen Elizabeth I's bedspread is on display in the China Room alongside cabinets of porcelain from the Berkeley family's collection, including two pieces recently returned to the Castle after a theft in 1999.

Housekeeper's Room & Screen's Passage

The Housekeeper's Room holds the Godwin Cup, Damascus Glass, and a fine example of the Berkeley Arch. The Screen's Passage contains the Castle's collections of armoury.

The Great Hall

Visitors are then lead into the magnificent Great Hall, where more portraiture and beautiful tapestries can be found, and the story of Dickie Pearce (the Earl of Suffolk's jester) is told.

Grand Staircase & Morning Room

From the Great Hall the tour continues via the Grand Staircase to the Morning Room, formerly the Chapel, where you can see a Narwahl Tusk, the Antiphony and a 16th century bible.

The Long & Small Drawing Rooms

The Long Drawing Room displays the suite of furniture that was embroidered by Elizabeth Drax, Countess to the 4th Earl of Berkeley, and the Small Drawing Room which is noted for its amazing roof timbers, and delicate Drawing Room furniture.

Clock Tower & Beer Cellar

The tour ends in the Clock Tower, where visitors can continue on to the Beer Cellar, where the musty scent of the barrels still lingers.

Grounds

After the tour take a stroll around the gardens. Depending upon the weather and your interest, a walk around the grounds can take from 20-60 minutes. The Castle is surrounded by 8 acres of grounds, including the Elizabethan terraces and bowling lawn, the 8th Earls swimming pool - now an ornamental lily pond with fountain, sweeping lawns, the old tennis court and the woodland grove. All of which can be explored at your leisure. Themed garden trails for children are available at different times throughout the season.

Tropical Butterfly House

Located in the walled kitchen garden adjacent to the main car park is the Tropical Butterfly House. Open May – September this attraction is also included with your admission ticket and is a tropical oasis, home to up-to 25 species of butterflies. Allow up-to 20 minutes to visit the Butterfly House.

Special Events

Please check on our website or at the Ticket Office on arrival for any special events or activities that are taking place on the day of your visit.

Other nearby attractions in Berkeley (a three-minute walk):

St Mary's Parish Church

Splendid mediaeval wall paintings, Berkeley Family Tombs and the Jester's Tomb - allow ½ hr.

Dr. Jenner's House & Garden

Dr Jenner pioneered smallpox vaccination - allow 1 hour.

(Separate charges or joint ticket applies.)

Attractions further afield

- Cattle Country Adventure Park (2 minutes by car)
- Slimbridge Wetlands Centre (15 minutes by car)
- Bristol, Gloucester, Cirencester, Cheltenham, (30 minutes)
- Bath (40 minutes)
- The Cotswolds (20 minutes)

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