



WARWICK CASTLE FULLY OPEN FROM 4 JULY

- **Indoor and outdoor attractions fully open**
- **Accommodation for short breaks open**
- **Extensive hygiene and safety programme in place to ensure attraction is Covid-secure**

[Explainer video outlining new procedures](#)

24 June 2020: Following the latest UK government announcement, Warwick Castle will reopen in full to the public from Saturday 4th July for day visits and short breaks with accommodation at the on-site Knight's Village.

The main Castle will now be open to visitors both inside and out, as well as the extensive grounds and gardens which reopened on 6th June. Visitors can rediscover the armoury collection in the Great Hall, and step back in time for the Royal Weekend Party before climbing the towers and ramparts for fantastic views across the grounds and beyond.

Character performers will also be back on site, including knights and princesses, and the renowned Birds of Prey shows will return in The Falconer's Quest. The collection of over 60 birds of prey have remained on site throughout lockdown, cared for by a small team of falconers who have been flying them daily to keep them in shape.

Food and drink outlets due to reopen include the Coach House cafe, Conservatory tearoom and a number of outdoor takeaway stands.

Accommodation for short breaks will also be reopening from 4th July, offering overnight stays in woodland lodges with medieval styling for the full historical experience. Lodges sleep between 5 - 7 people and all have self-contained bathrooms and toilets.

All tickets and stays must be booked in advance online at warwick-castle.com and new daily capacity limits are in place to ensure social distancing and provide the best possible guest experience. On arrival, visitors will see significant and reassuring new safety measures in place such as new routes around the attraction, new queuing formats, staff wearing PPE and enhanced cleaning, in alignment with Government guidelines.

Divisional Director Nick Blofeld says: *"Having reopened grounds and gardens in early June, our new procedures are firmly in place and will now be extended across the whole attraction."*

We're confident that we can offer the full Castle experience that we know our visitors love, in line with best practice advice on social distancing and hygiene and can't wait to draw up the portcullis to welcome them in."



Sir Jay of Warwick reminds visitors from different households to keep two weapons apart at all times

Covid-secure processes in place

A number of key processes have been implemented to ensure visitor safety including:

- Increased health and safety procedures for enhanced cleaning of all areas including toilets and seating, introduction of one-way systems supported by clear wayfinding, social distancing markers and sanitiser stations
- Entry will be dependent on advance online booking only, with availability subject to new daily maximum capacities to ensure allowance for social distancing. Temperature spot-checks may be carried out.
- Guests are encouraged to bring face coverings with them for use if necessary
- Contactless payment for food and drink payment, from 'grab and go' outlets offering snacks, hot and cold drinks and ice cream
- Toilets will be available to guests on a one-in-one-out basis

Warwick Castle is part of Merlin Entertainments, the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, and has been able to draw on experience from others in the group in order to deliver reopening with best practice. Nick Varney, Merlin Entertainments' CEO, said:

"We look forward to welcoming guests from across the UK back to our sites, just as we have done successfully across Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Europe and North America. In each location, we have seen our guests embrace the 'new normal' and actively adhere to the new safety measures we have put in place. After the extended lockdown, we recognise that people need leisure and escapism and to make new happy memories with those they love. We look forward to helping them do just that."

-Ends-

Note **to** **editors**

Images:

Download high-res images and video here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/78gnnuv1cnzp4vd/AAB2UXy8dlH8PJgV_8loXq8Ma?dl=0

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Warwick Castle

Tickets for full day entry are priced from £20 for adults and £17 for children, and must be pre-booked online at www.warwick-castle.com.

Further information on what the Castle is doing to keep visitors safe is available here

<https://www.warwick-castle.com/about/reopening/>

Warwick Castle is easily accessible from Junction 15 of the M40, just 40 minutes from Birmingham and 1 hour 40 minutes from London. Warwick Castle is easy to reach by train from London Marylebone in only 86 minutes. The Castle, set in 64 acres of grounds designed by Capability Brown, rests on the banks of the River Avon at the heart of historic Warwick.

About Merlin Entertainments plc

Merlin Entertainments plc is a global leader in location-based, family entertainment. As Europe's Number 1 and the world's second-largest visitor attraction operator, Merlin now operates over 130 attractions, 19 hotels and 6 holiday villages in 25 countries and across 4 continents. Merlin's purpose is to deliver memorable experiences to its 67 million guests around the world, through its iconic brands and multiple attraction formats, and the commitment and passion of its c.28,000 employees (peak season).

See www.merlinentertainments.biz for more information and follow on Twitter @MerlinEntsNews.