

# GROUP VISITS

# CASTLE RUSHEN

**Welcome to the group visitor information for Castle Rushen. Here you will find everything you need to plan a visit.**



One of the best preserved medieval castles in Europe can be found in the heart of Castletown, the Isle of Man's ancient capital. Castle Rushen was the former seat of the Kings and Lords of Mann, with the Castle's oldest part dating back to the time of Magnus, last Norse King of Mann. Later on, Castle Rushen served as an administrative centre, a mint, a law court and for over 100 years until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a prison. Today, spectacular displays illustrate the Castle at various times in history with figures in period costume, historical furnishings and wall hangings, realistic food, contemporary music and medieval speech bringing the Castle's medieval and 17<sup>th</sup> century periods to life.

Don't miss:

- The murder holes in the Inner Gatehouse
- Bishop Wilson in his cell
- The castle guards in their vaulted rooms
- Panoramic views of Castletown from the ramparts
- Gatehouse with en-suite 'garderobe'
- Lord Stanley in the Presence Chamber



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- 17<sup>th</sup> century dining room
- Medieval tales in the wall tapestries
- Medieval kitchen
- Wall walks

## Timing your visit

A typical visit lasts 1½ hours. We recommend that a visit to Castle Rushen is timed to coincide with other attractions within walking distance in Castletown:

- The Nautical Museum, where you can discover the story of the late Captain George Quayle, his eccentric boathouse and his most significant surviving creation the Peggy
- The Old House of Keys, former home of the Manx Parliament
- The Old Grammar School, where rows of benches and desks are a reminder of early Victorian school days

A visit to Castle Rushen can also be combined with a trip to Rushen Abbey in neighbouring Ballasalla.

## Opening hours 2018 / 2019

Winter 2017 will see some exciting works at Castle Rushen. Manx National Heritage is embarking upon a project to enhance the visitor experience at this incredibly well-preserved Medieval fortress by making the ground floor level rooms more physically accessible and introducing a new approach to interpreting its stories.

30 March\* to 25 May, 10am – 4pm

26 May to 2 September, 10am – 5pm

3 September to 4 November, 10am – 4pm

\*subject to completion of works

5 Nov '18 to 31 Mar '19 – Closed for Winter

1 Apr '19 to 24 May '19 – 10am – 4pm

25 May '19 to 1 Sept '19 – 10am to 5pm

2 Sept '19 to 3 Nov '19 – 10am to 5pm

## Guided tours

Fully guided tours of the castle by one of our expert guides are available to groups for an additional £25 on top of the group admission rate. We recommend one tour guide for every 25 people. The tour will last one hour and guides should be booked at least a week in advance.



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## **Admission prices for 2018**

Pre-booked group\* £6 per adult

\*To qualify for the pre-booked group rate, groups must consist of at least 15 people and be paid for 7 days in advance.

Holiday passes providing multi-site admission can be booked in advance at a discounted group rate of £22 per adult and are also available at the standard price of £25 per adult from all Manx National Heritage sites.

A combined Go Explore card is available for groups of 20 or more people which, during normal operating times, offers unlimited admission to Manx National Heritage sites and unlimited travel on the heritage railways, buses and Douglas horse trams for the valid period of the pass purchased.

Manx National Heritage also has a number of reciprocal agreements with other heritage organisations such as the National Trust, English Heritage and CADW amongst others, providing free or reduced admission on presentation of a valid membership card. Refunds are not available for tickets purchased.

## **Booking your visit**

Booking in advance is recommended and achieves a number of benefits for your group including a discount on the standard admission price and speedy, hassle-free entry to the site.

To book your group visit please contact the group bookings office. Payment is due a week in advance. On receipt of payment, a group bookings permit will be issued to you for presentation at the site entrance on the day of the visit.

## **How to get there**

Castle Rushen is situated in the centre of Castletown, overlooking the harbour.

By road - Either enter the town via the Douglas Road (from the North) and follow Victoria Road into Castletown, crossing the harbour bridge. From the South enter Castletown from Alexandra Road and follow the road until you enter Castletown square.

By Steam Railway - Castle Rushen is signposted from Castletown station.

By bus from Douglas, Peel, Port Erin and Port St Mary  
For timetables please see [www.iombusandrail.info](http://www.iombusandrail.info)



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## **Parking**

Disc zone car parking is available within the town.

Coaches may drop off or collect visitors at Castletown town square. Free coach parking is available in the area behind the George Hotel, adjacent to Castletown fire station on Farrants Way. Please note that speed limits apply in Castletown and there are narrow streets within the town.

## **Accessibility Information**

Visual and oral presentations, along with a small range of sensory experiences can be enjoyed on the ground floor.

Disabled toilets are available within the castle.

There are narrow steps and spiral stair cases leading to the higher floors of the castle.

Detailed access information is available at <https://manxnationalheritage.im/visit/getting-about/accessibility-information/>

## **Visitor Information**

- Gift shop
- Toilets
- Cafes, bars and restaurants are available in the nearby town centre
- Photography and filming for personal use is permitted

