

Online booking for Edinburgh Castle opens today

Historic Environment Scotland are getting ready to welcome visitors again by opening their online booking system for Edinburgh Castle as well as Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle.

Visitors can enjoy the surroundings of the castle, and all outdoor areas but not all of the indoors unless it allows for social distancing. The Great Hall which was completed in 1511 is included, and those who are there at the right time will be able to watch the firing of the One O'clock Gun.

The castle will reopen on 1 August 2020 with new safety measures such as cashless payments and one way systems. Cafés and shops will be open.

Visitors will be limited and personal details will be shared with HES as part of NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of HES, said: "We very much look forward to welcoming Historic Scotland members, and members of the public back to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle.

"Since lockdown began – which is the first time since the Second World War that all of our visitor attractions have been closed – we have been working hard to implement new safety measures at our sites in line with Scottish Government guidance.

"We want our visitors to not only be safe, but feel safe too, whilst experiencing Scotland's heritage sites with all they

have to offer again.

“I’m sure that many of our visitors will be eager to cross the drawbridge of three of Scotland’s most iconic sites now that lockdown restrictions are easing as well as our other sites across the country which will be re-opening on a rolling basis. We’ve worked hard to get our sites ready to welcome visitors, and as before, a fun and enjoyable experience awaits to explore and discover the fascinating history within these world-renowned castles.”

Ticket prices have been reduced while some indoor access is restricted and must be booked in advance. Tickets cost £15.50 for an adult, £12.40 for concession and £9.30 for a child for Edinburgh Castle; £14 for an adult, £11.20 for concession and £8.40 for a child for Stirling Castle; and £9.60 for an adult, £7.70 for concession and £5.80 for a child for Urquhart Castle.

Tickets must be purchased online from the HES, Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle websites. To book tickets, visit: <http://www.historicreopening.scot/>