

LANCASTER
CASTLE



1000 YEARS OF
ROYAL HERITAGE,
HISTORIC JUSTICE,
FELONY AND
INCARCERATION...

What are you waiting for?

COME AND EXPLORE TODAY!



WHAT IS THE CASTLE'S ROYAL CONNECTION?

THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER

THE CASTLE FORMS PART OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER, AN ANCIENT INHERITANCE WHICH BEGAN 750 YEARS AGO WHEN HENRY III MADE A GRANT OF LANDS TO HIS SON EDMUND CROUCHBACK.

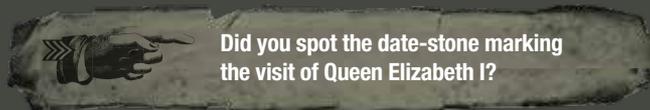
A Royal Lancastrian Heritage

Almost a century later, Edmund's grandson became the first Duke of Lancaster. However, it was not until Henry Bolingbroke came to the throne as Henry IV in 1399 that the Duchy of Lancaster and its unique link to the reigning Monarch was fully established.

Henry's father John O'Gaunt was perhaps the most famous Duke of Lancaster and the imposing Gateway to the Castle bears his name.

The Castle has received many Royal visitors over the years, from King John and Robert the Bruce to Bonnie Prince Charlie and Queen Victoria. Our latest Royal visit was from the current Duke of Lancaster, Her Majesty the Queen in May 2015.

As you visit the Castle, you are following in the footsteps of Kings and Queens of centuries past.



WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT LANCASTER CASTLE?

...EVERYTHING!

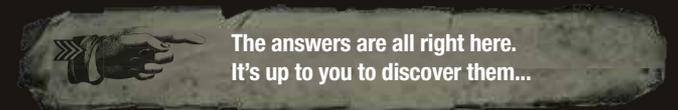
IT'S BEEN A ROYAL CASTLE, A DEFENSIVE FORTRESS, A CROWN COURT, A CIVIL COURT, A PLACE OF BRUTAL INCARCERATION AND A MODERN-DAY PRISON. SOME OF THESE FUNCTIONS CONTINUE HERE TODAY.

Come and find out for yourself

Lancaster Castle gives visitors a unique look at the history of the judiciary, changes to the UK penal system over the centuries and a rare insight into the ways in which different types of prisoners were detained and treated here in Lancaster.

From the underground pit where the Pendle Witches were held, to the mediaeval stone cells, the relative comfort of the debtors' prison, the world's first female-only penitentiary and the modern-day 'Pentonville-style' prison which was in active service here until 2011, each tells its own tale.

Lancaster Castle is also home to one of the oldest, longest-sitting Crown Courts in the country. Cases are still tried here today. See for yourselves why convicted prisoners are referred to as being 'sent down' and why those in the witness box were – and still are – asked to raise their left hand.



WHAT DO THE MARKINGS ON THE DUCHY CREST MEAN?

A HISTORIC ALLIANCE

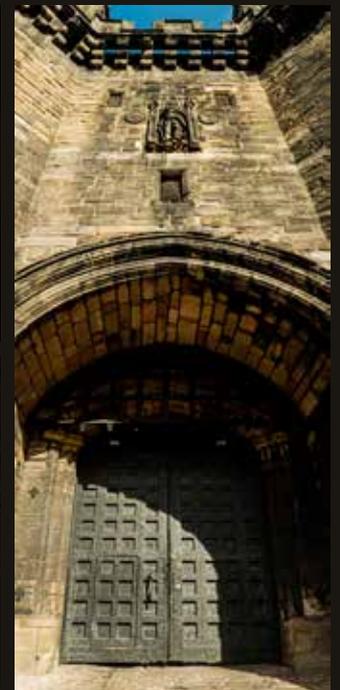
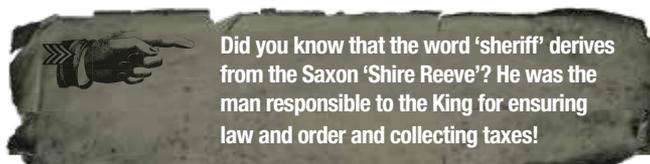
THE DUCHY COAT OF ARMS AND CREST SHOWS THE HISTORIC ARMS OF ENGLAND OVERLAID WITH A BLUE 'LABEL' OR KEY BEARING THE FRENCH FLEUR-DE-LIS.

The Duchy of Lancaster Crest

This new coat of arms commemorated Edmund's marriage to Blanche d'Artois in 1276. It was the first coat of arms to bear the combined armorial insignia of England and France.

In the Shire Hall adjacent to the Castle is one of Europe's largest displays of chivalric heraldry. Each Sovereign from Richard the Lionheart to Elizabeth II is represented among the 650 shields hanging on the wall, together with the High Sheriffs of Lancashire and Constables of Lancaster Castle.

Even today, the High Sheriff of Lancashire attends a formal Shield-Hanging Ceremony in the Shire Hall to carry on that ancient tradition. This is preceded by a service of thanksgiving at the Priory Church opposite the entrance to the Shire Hall and the congregation processes from one to the other.



9. EXECUTIONER'S YARD

'THE HANGING CORNER'

Between 1800 and 1865, a total of 213 people were executed at Lancaster Castle. Visit the 'drop room' to learn more.



8. MALE PENITENTIARY

ALSO KNOWN AS 'A WING'

A 'Pentonville-style' prison wing added to the Castle in the 19th century. A-Wing has 18 cells per floor and extends over 3 floors. Explore the Prison Life Exhibition.



7. TOURS, TICKET OFFICE & SHOP



START YOUR TOUR HERE.

Public and private tours available daily. Prebooking recommended for large parties. Prices £8.00 per adult, £6.50 concessions, £20 family ticket.

6. MALE FELONS TOWER



BUILT IN 1796.

The former Male Felons' prison is built on a radial plan, with 2 cell blocks of 5 storeys linked by a rebuilt curtain wall.

10. NORMAN KEEP



ALSO KNOWN AS THE LUNGESS TOWER.

With 3m thick walls, this medieval or Norman keep is the heart of the Castle. The upper storey was rebuilt by Elizabeth I.

11. CHAPEL COURTYARD

A PLACE OF PRAYER.

The Chapel originally occupied the ground floor of the Keep. It was later used as a gymnasium for prisoners.



12. CROWN COURT



STILL SITTING TODAY.

An oak-paneled courtroom which still sits today and in which the original 18th century branding iron is still on display.

13. SHIRE HALL

JOSEPH GANDY'S MASTERPIECE.

Completed in 1801, this magnificent ten-sided room is the centrepiece of one of the UK's finest displays of chivalric heraldry.



14. HADRIAN'S TOWER



CHAINS, MANACLES AND ARTEFACTS.

In 1796, the hall of the castle was redesigned. Its basement cells built in 1784 survives together with the cylindrical Hadrian's Tower (built 1210).

15. DEBTORS' PRISON



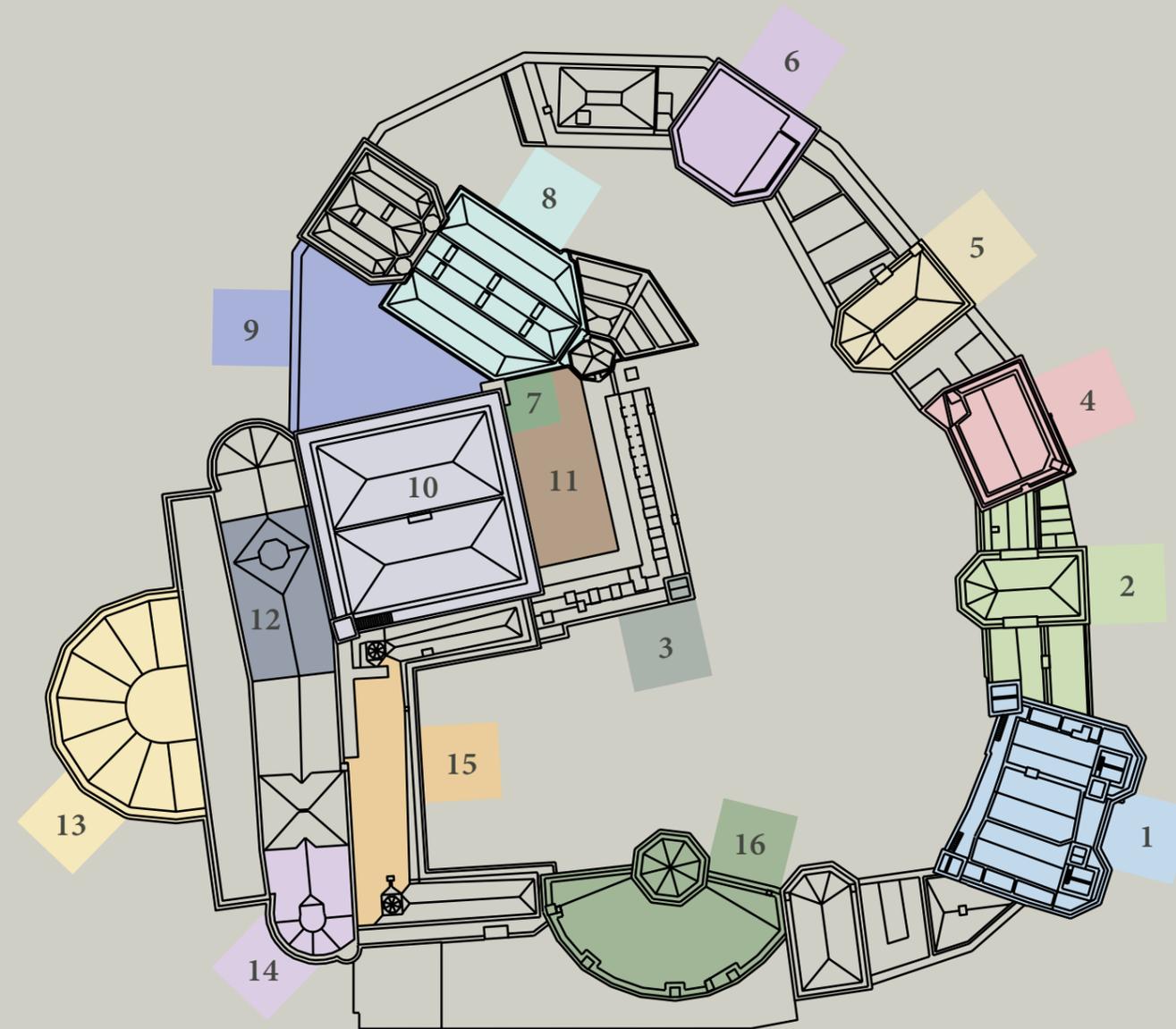
HANSBROW'S HOTEL.

By the mid-19th century, this was the largest debtors' prison outside of London. Conditions were so good it was nick-named Hansbrow's Hotel.

16. FEMALE PENITENTIARY

A PRACTICAL PANOPTICAN DESIGN.

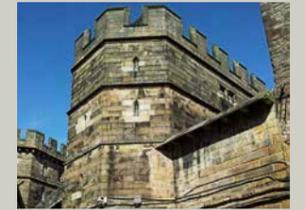
The last major extension, built in 1821. A panopticon designed by Joseph Gandy it was still used for prisoners until 2011.



5. KING'S EVIDENCE TOWER

ADDED TO THE CASTLE IN 1822.

The King's Evidence Tower was built to house – and to protect – male prisoners giving prosecution testimony.



4. THE WELL TOWER



ALSO KNOWN AS 'THE WITCHES TOWER'.

Said to have held the Pendle witches in its dungeons, this part of the Castle dates back to c.1325.

3. CLOCKTOWER (DUCHY ROOM)

EARLY 19TH CENTURY CONSTRUCTION.

The ground floor was an 'open' arcade with workshops where debtors made goods to trade and sell. They held fairs, concerts and even mock elections here.



2. GOVERNOR'S HOUSE



BUILT BY THOMAS HARRISON, 1788.

Situated between the Gatehouse and the Well Tower, the Governor's House was later converted to offices by the Prison Service.

1. JOHN O'GAUNT GATE

ONE OF ENGLAND'S GREATEST GATEHOUSES.

Built around 1405, the arms of Henry V as Prince of Wales appear on a shield above the gateway.



Test your knowledge

WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED TODAY?

Who is the current Duke of Lancaster?

What is the special Lancastrian toast?

Can you tell who the statue represents in the alcove above the main Gate?

Can you remember the names of any of the famous prisoners held at Lancaster Castle?

Why do those in the witness box have to 'raise their right hands'?

How old is the ancient inheritance of the Duchy of Lancaster?

What does the coat of arms of the Duchy of Lancaster look like?

How did 19th century debtors obtain their freedom?

What were the neck and leg manacles you can see in Hadrian's tower used for?

How many cells are there in 'A' wing?

Do you know who the current Constable of Lancaster Castle is?

**THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE CASTLE.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!**

WWW.LANCASTERCASTLE.COM

Lancaster Castle, Castle Parade, Lancaster LA1 1YN

Tours: 01524 64998

[f facebook.com/lancastercastle](https://www.facebook.com/lancastercastle) [t @LancCastle](https://twitter.com/LancCastle)

LANCASTER
CASTLE

