



HIGHCLERE CASTLE AND GARDENS AND THE EQYPTIAN EXHIBITION

Sunday 20 April 2025

£62.00pp

We have been lucky enough to book a visit to Highclere Castle. These group bookings are very limited and we are delighted to have managed this.

The first written records of the estate date back to 749 AD when an Anglo-Saxon King granted the estate to the Bishops of Winchester. Bishop William of Wykeham built a beautiful medieval palace and gardens in the park. Later on, in 1679, the palace was rebuilt as Highclere Place House when it was purchased by Sir Robert Sawyer, the direct ancestor of the current Earl of Carnarvon. In 1842, Sir Charles Barry, who also designed the Houses of Parliament, transformed Highclere House into the present day Highclere Castle. During the First World War, Highclere Castle was converted into a hospital for wounded soldiers run by the 5th Countess of Carnarvon. Then, in the Second World War, Highclere Castle was home to children evacuated from London. There are between 250 and 300 rooms in the Castle Saloon and during your tour you will explore the main state rooms so familiar from "**Downtown Abbey**". You will see some of the bedrooms after which you will follow the stairs down to the cellars and old staff quarters where you will find the **Egyptian Exhibition**, celebrating the 5th Earl of Carnarvon's discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. Records show **the gardens** were first developed here during the 13th century. Today you are welcome to explore the original Monk's Garden, the Secret Garden, the White Border, the Wood of Goodwill, the Rose Arbour, the Wild Flower Meadow and, nearer the Castle, the Healing Herb garden. On your visit you will have a free flow tour of the Castle, visit The Egyptian Exhibition and have time to explore the Gardens and get some refreshments.

Pick up times: Depart Heathfield 8.15, Uckfield 8.35, Maresfield 8.45, Forest Row 9.10, War Memorial Bus Stop 9.20, Lingfield Road Bus Stop 9.25, Felbridge 9.30. Home 7.30pm

