

Duart Castle

Drones, Camping, Pets, Access, and Fires Policy



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Introduction

Duart Castle is a small, family run business. We endeavour to be as relaxed as possible when allowing access to the grounds and public buildings. As the castle and cottages are occupied all year, even when the castle is closed to the public, we have a few rules that are designed to make everyone's visit as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Access to the Grounds

We allow access to the grounds when the public buildings are closed as well as open. The car park is open all year round and is free to use. If you are visiting out of season or when we are closed, we appreciate a small contribution in our donation box towards the upkeep of the carpark and grounds.

As a rule, we grant access during daylight and prefer people to leave before dark. In any event we do not permit overnight stays in vehicles or camping. See camping and motorhome policy below.

The use of drones is forbidden without express permission. See section on Drones below.

Pets are welcome on the site but must be under control. Grazing of sheep is common on Duart property, including the immediate castle grounds during the winter when the castle is closed.

Fires and BBQs

Open fires and barbecues are not permitted at any time on Duart property. This is to protect against wild-fires, to preserve the green areas and protect livestock, wildlife and areas of special scientific interest.

Drones

The use of drones in the vicinity of Duart Castle and its grounds is forbidden except where express consent has been sought and granted.

This is:

- to protect the privacy and security of the residents of the castle and cottages, staff and visitors.
- to prevent harm coming to residents, visitors and staff by inexperienced operators.
- to protect the security of the castle.
- to protect areas around the castle that are sites of special scientific interest.
- Consent may be sought by emailing office@duartcastle.com.

Consent will not be granted to fly directly over the castle or adjacent properties.

Pets Policy

We understand that most pets are well behaved, but we have a no pets inside the building policy to prevent accidental damage and to protect the public and castle staff. Therefore, we do not allow pets in the castle, shop or tearoom.

Assistance animals are permitted to enter the buildings.

Pets are welcome in the grounds of Duart Castle. Dog MUST be kept under control and on a lead. During the winter, and sometimes at other times, livestock may be grazing on the grounds.

Under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, updated in 2021, it is an offence for a dog to attack or worry livestock on agricultural land punishable by up to 12 months in prison or up to a £40,000 fine.

Camping and Motorhome Policy

We do not permit overnight camping in a tent or stopping overnight in any motor vehicle on the grounds of Duart Castle. This includes, but is not limited to, the car park and access roads. Stopping except to allow a vehicle to pass is absolutely forbidden in any passing space on the access road.

We do not allow overnight stays because:

- It is a private car park and grounds. We want to protect the privacy of staff and residents.
- We have no capacity to supervise the site overnight.
- There are areas of special scientific interest around the castle which we have an obligation to protect.
- We have no facilities to dispose of chemical toilet waste and no hygiene facilities available overnight.

Scottish Access Rights allow you access to hills and moors, forests and woods, beaches and the coast, rivers and lochs, parks, and some types of farmlands. There are exceptions to the access rights, including houses and gardens, other buildings and their yards, enclosed farmland or compounds, school grounds and places which charge for entry.

Access rights do not include motor vehicles. As private landowners we are permitted to regulate parking on our land.

<https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/camping/campervans-motorhomes-and-roof-top-tents>