



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

MAP

HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

Explore 100 acres of stunning gardens and Northern Ireland's fascinating royal residence

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEN PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

WELCOME TO NORTHERN IRELAND'S WORKING ROYAL RESIDENCE

Be our guest at Hillsborough Castle and discover stories of celebration, entertainment, diplomacy and negotiation in the company of our expert hosts.

An elegant 'Irish Big House' built by Wills Hill the 1st Marquess of Downshire, Hillsborough Castle was first established in the 1750s.



In 1925, the castle was sold to the British Government becoming Government House, the seat of the Governor of Northern Ireland and the residence of the monarch here.

The castle's original name was restored in 1972 when it became official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Today you can experience the majestic State Rooms filled with glorious artworks from the Royal Collection.

EXPLORE STUNNING GARDENS THAT SURROUND THE CASTLE

Lose yourself in 100 acres of formal and picturesque gardens, including the newly restored Walled Garden.

Discover the exotically planted Lost Garden, the tranquil lake and the fragrant rose garden laid out by Lady Granville, wife of the second Governor and aunt to Queen Elizabeth II.

Or pick up an Imaginary Menagerie leaflet and explore our trail of playful installations throughout the gardens.



UPGRADE YOUR TICKET TODAY

Become a member and visit our palaces and gardens time and time again. Speak to a member of staff or visit our website for more information.

Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

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HRP.ORG.UK

GARDENS AND ESTATE HIGHLIGHTS

GLEN AND PINETUM

The 3rd Marquess created the romantic Glen complete with its Giant's Causeway relics and the magnificent grove of conifers, called a pinetum. The trees all originate from America and were planted in the 1870s.

YEW TREE WALK

When the gardens at Hillsborough were enlarged in the 1830s, part of the town was moved and the old Moira Road was closed. It is now known as Yew Tree Walk after the paired Irish Yew trees that line its path.

MOSS WALK

Hillsborough was originally known as 'Cromlyn' (Gaelic for crooked glen) and the site of its old church and graveyard can be found at the end of Moss Walk. Lined with 150-year old lime trees, this magnificent moss carpet is very fragile. Please help us preserve its unique ecosystem by using the adjoining paths.

LADY ALICE'S TEMPLE

This delightful garden feature is named after Lady Alice Hill, beloved daughter of the 4th Marquess of Downshire.

The elegant Alice regularly featured in the society and fashion pages of the national press and a loyal tenant described her as a 'universal and deserved favourite'.



THE WALLED GARDEN

Built in the 1760s with warm brick walls to grow fruit trees, the garden has been restored and re-presented, complete with fruit and vegetable beds growing seasonal produce, a dipping pond, herbaceous borders and an apple orchard.

HYDRO HOUSE AND ICE HOUSE

Over the centuries Hillsborough's residents have found ingenious ways to harness nature for their own convenience. Explore the atmospheric Ice House and the recently restored Hydro House to discover how water can be used to provide refrigeration and power all year round.



ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Don't miss Hillsborough Castle Cafe at the Weston Pavilion for a light snack, a more substantial meal or a takeaway to enjoy in the beautiful gardens.

Enjoy browsing our shop for a beautiful range of Hillsborough inspired gifts.



HOST AN EVENT

Hillsborough Castle and Gardens boasts a rich history of royal occasions and state events. Enjoy the elegant spaces and professional service previously reserved for presidents and princesses in a magnificent venue for corporate events, dinners and weddings.

Call our Events team on +44 (0)28 9268 1342 or visit hrp.org.uk for an enquiry form



- 1 Hillsborough Castle entrance
- 2 Granville Garden
- 3 Yew Tree Walk
- 4 Willow House
- 5 Friends Burial Ground
- 6 Lost Garden
- 7 Lady Alice's Temple
- 8 The Gardens' Summer House
- 9 Glen

- 10 Moss Walk
 - 11 Walled Garden
 - 12 Bee Hives
 - 13 Hydro House
 - 14 Pinetum
 - 15 The Ice House
 - 16 Lake
- Imaginary Menagerie trails**
Please pick up an Imaginary Menagerie leaflet to discover our trail through the gardens

ACCESSIBILITY

Please ask a member of staff for more information or our Access Guide.

RECOMMENDED ROUTE TO CASTLE

The main route to the Castle entrance from the Walled Garden is step-free. All step-free routes are marked on the map in pink.

Other paths have uneven steps and slopes which may become slippery in wet weather, and are unsuitable for wheelchair users and those with restricted mobility.

MOBILITY TRANSPORT

When the castle is open we operate a transport service from the Walled Garden for those needing assistance. Stops are marked on the map.

YOUR SAFETY

Please take care around deep open water, steps and steep drops (especially Lady Alice's Pond and the Lake.)

Children must be supervised at all times