



**60th DLOC ANNIVERSARY & 58th INTERNATIONAL RALLY
17TH TO 21ST JULY 2024 - THE SUSSEX COUNTIES.**

Arundel Castle & Town Centre – An Insight

Arundel Castle, originally built in the 11th Century, is the historic home of the Dukes of Norfolk and has been continually occupied and renovated over the centuries.



The first structure on the Arundel Castle site was built in the 11th Century by the Normans after the invasion of William the Conqueror, with the earthworks and first buildings completed by 1070. William d'Aubiny, the first Earl of Arundel, inherited the castle in 1138, followed by the Fitzalan family in the 13th century who undertook a large programme of renovation. In the 16th Century, Arundel Castle came into the possession of the Howard family when Fitzalan's heiress Mary married Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk. His grandfather had been the eminent 3rd Duke of Norfolk and uncle of both Catherine Howard and Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's ill-fated second and fifth wives. Thomas Howard, would later be executed by Elizabeth I for his involvement in the Ridolfi plot, in which he conspired to marry Mary, Queen of Scots and place her on the throne.

During the English Civil War, Arundel Castle was besieged twice: first by the Royalists who successfully captured the site and then by the Parliamentarians – whose siege lasted eighteen days. Following this, Parliament ordered the slighting of the castle, a process that deliberately damaged it to reduce its value as a royal military stronghold. In 1846, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed at Arundel Castle, before the 13th Duke of Norfolk undertook a large remodelling scheme to accommodate them. The scheme paid off, with Victoria commenting on the beauty of the castle.

Today, Arundel Castle remains a vast complex, with many original features still intact such as the Norman Keep,

Medieval Gatehouse, and Barbican. It is home to an impressive array of priceless artwork, such as works by Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Canaletto, as well as a vast collection of furniture, sculptures and tapestries. The displays also include possessions of Mary, Queen of Scots and the collection of furniture especially purchased for Queen Victoria's visit, including the bed she slept in. The castle grounds and gardens provide a fascinating tour with Tropical and English Gardens, a unique stumpery, warm glasshouses that grow chillies, grapes and lemons, The Stew Ponds, to name but a few of the attractions within the grounds.

Arundel located along the banks of the River Arun is a charming, stylish and full of history picturesque market town dating back to the Norman Times. Dominated by the castle and cathedral, along with glorious surrounding countryside, Arundel really is a jewel within the West Sussex crown. The beautiful town has been preserved and remains unspoilt, allowing a plethora of independent shops selling a vast array of wonderful items. Add to that numerous quintessential English tea shops and other refreshment houses, there really is something for everyone. Although there is much to see along the High Street, it is the side roads such as Tarrant Street, Maltravers Street and King Street, to name but a few that present some of the very best shops and places of interest that Arundel has to offer. Combine Arundel Castle along with strolling through the town and it really does become a full day out, of which I hope you thoroughly enjoy.

Our rally base for the day will be within the grounds of Arundel Castle, specifically parked on the Lower Lawn adjacent to the castle. This area will present our lovely cars beautifully and the Lower Lawn is next to one of the main pathways to tour the castle and grounds. Such is the position, that the DLOC will be highly visible to members of the public visiting Arundel Castle; it is fair to say there will be a lot of interested folk wanting to view our superb cars.

Entry fee for our visit will be £15 per person, which allows access to the gardens and surrounding areas. If you wish to upgrade your ticket allowing entry into the beautiful castle, the Trustees have agreed a discounted price of £25 per person. All tickets are to be prepaid before the visit and should you wish to visit Arundel Castle, processes will be in place to take payment and confirm your ticket entry choice in advance of the visit – i.e: castle grounds only or grounds and castle.

Unfortunately Arundel Castle does NOT allow dogs / pets on site, only accredited Assistance Dogs.

Further details of our visit to Arundel Castle and its lovely medieval town, will be published within the DLOC 2024 International Rally Programme.

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