

Explorer Map



Welcome to Northern Ireland's working royal residence

Start your journey of discovery with a visit to the castle. 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 as part of a guided tour.

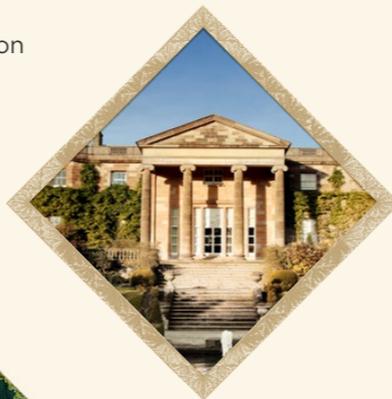


Explore stunning gardens that surround the castle

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

Venture into the recently revealed Lost Garden with its exotic planting or step into the fragrant rose garden laid out by Lady Granville, wife of the second Governor and aunt to HM The Queen.

And why not take a walk around the tranquil lake with its abundance of wildlife and waterfowl.



Be our guest on a guided tour of the castle

Join a guided tour and find out what it's like to be a guest in a working royal residence in the company of our expert guides.

Discover stories of celebration, entertainment, diplomacy and negotiation as you enjoy a 45-minute tour of Hillsborough Castle's fascinating history and stunning State Rooms.

Book your place today



Become a member

Membership entitles you to unlimited adventures at all of our palaces, 10% off in our shops and cafes, and access to a range of exclusive member events.

Upgrade your ticket to membership by asking a member of staff or by visiting our website:

hrp.org.uk/membership

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Gardens and estate highlights

Lady Alice's Temple

7

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

A beloved only daughter, 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'.

Glen and Pinetum

9 13

The 3rd Marquess created the romantic Glen complete with its Giant's Causeway relics and the magnificent grove of firs, called a pinetum. The oldest tree in the collection is a Monterey Pine planted by Wills Hill, first Marquess of Downshire, in the 1770s.

Yew Tree Walk

3 10

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.

Court House and Fort

16 17

Hillsborough's 18th century court house sits in The Square on an elegant axis with the castle and fort.

Built to protect the road leading from Carrickfergus to Dublin, the fort has been a place of power, play and pleasure for more than 400 years.

Hydro House and Ice House

12 14

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

Visit the **Stable Yard Tea Room** for light snacks and drinks or enjoy a more substantial meal in the **Hillsborough Castle Café** at the Weston Pavilion.

Visit our shops in the Stable Yard and Weston Pavilion to browse our beautiful range of Hillsborough inspired gifts.

Stay in touch

With many exciting events planned, there are lots of reasons to come back to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens.

Keep up with all the latest news and sign up to our e-newsletter:

hrp.org.uk/hillsborough-castle

Share your experience online and follow us here

 Hillsborough Castle

 @HillsCastle

 @historicroyalpalaces

GARDEN PARTY
24th August

Explore Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

Encounter fascinating stories and moments of discovery around every corner



What to see Inside the gardens

- 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 Hydro House
- 13 Pinetum
- 14 The Ice House
- 15 Lake

In the town

- 16 Hillsborough Court House
- 17 Hillsborough Fort

For your safety

Please take care when visiting the gardens. There is danger of deep open water, steps and steep drops (especially near the Lake and by Lady Alice's pond).

Children must be supervised at all times.

Accessibility

Due to the natural terrain of the gardens, the majority of paths are unsuitable for wheelchair users and those with restricted mobility.

Some paths have uneven steps and slopes which may become slippery in wet weather.

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

Step-free routes

The main step-free route runs from the Walled Garden to the Castle entrance and is marked on the map in orange.

Other step-free routes and ramps are provided across the site.

Mobility transport

A transport service operates on Carriage Ride for those needing assistance to get from the lower entrance to the castle. Transport stops are marked on the map.

For your safety and security CCTV is in use on site. Call 028 9268 1300 for more information.



Main entrance from A1 →

Where to find

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Hillsborough Castle Café | | Toilets | |
| Stable Yard Tea Room | | Baby change | |
| Shops | | Changing Places toilet | |
| Information | | Step-free route | |
| Buggy Park and lockers | | Mobility Transport stop | |
| First aid | | Car Park | |

Moss Walk 10
Please help us preserve the natural beauty and unique ecosystem of Moss Walk by using the nearby gravel paths.

