

The History

- 1067** William the Conqueror builds a wooden castle on the Castle rock.
- 1170** The Castle is built in stone by Henry II.
- 1480** Edward IV erected Richard's Tower.
- 1642** Charles I raises his standard here at the start of the Civil War.
- 1663** William Cavendish, First Duke of Newcastle, builds the building you see now.
- 1831** The Castle is gutted by fire in an attack by Reform Bill rioters.
- 1878** Nottingham Castle is restored and opened as the first Municipal Museum and Art Gallery outside London.

Mortimer's Hole

Underneath the Castle are many man-made caves and tunnels, some of which are medieval. One of these is Mortimer's Hole, a tunnel of 98 metres long. On the night of 19th October 1330 one of the most dramatic events in the history of the Castle Rock took place when the supporters of 15 year old King Edward III entered the Castle through a secret passage. They captured Queen Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer, who had usurped the young King and were ruling England in his place. Mortimer was taken to London, where he was executed.

Guided tours of Mortimer's Hole and the Caves beneath the Castle take place daily. The times of the tours are signposted at the gatehouse and in the Castle shop. Tickets can be purchased at Nottingham Castle. The tours last approximately one hour.

School Visits

The Museum's Access Team organises a wide range of sessions for schools, linked to the National Curriculum. Outreach activities can be designed for community groups. For further information please contact the Access Team on 0115 9153692.

Visitors with a disability

An Access Guide is available for visitors with a disability. Please ask at the Castle Gatehouse or shop for a copy.

Museum and Art Gallery

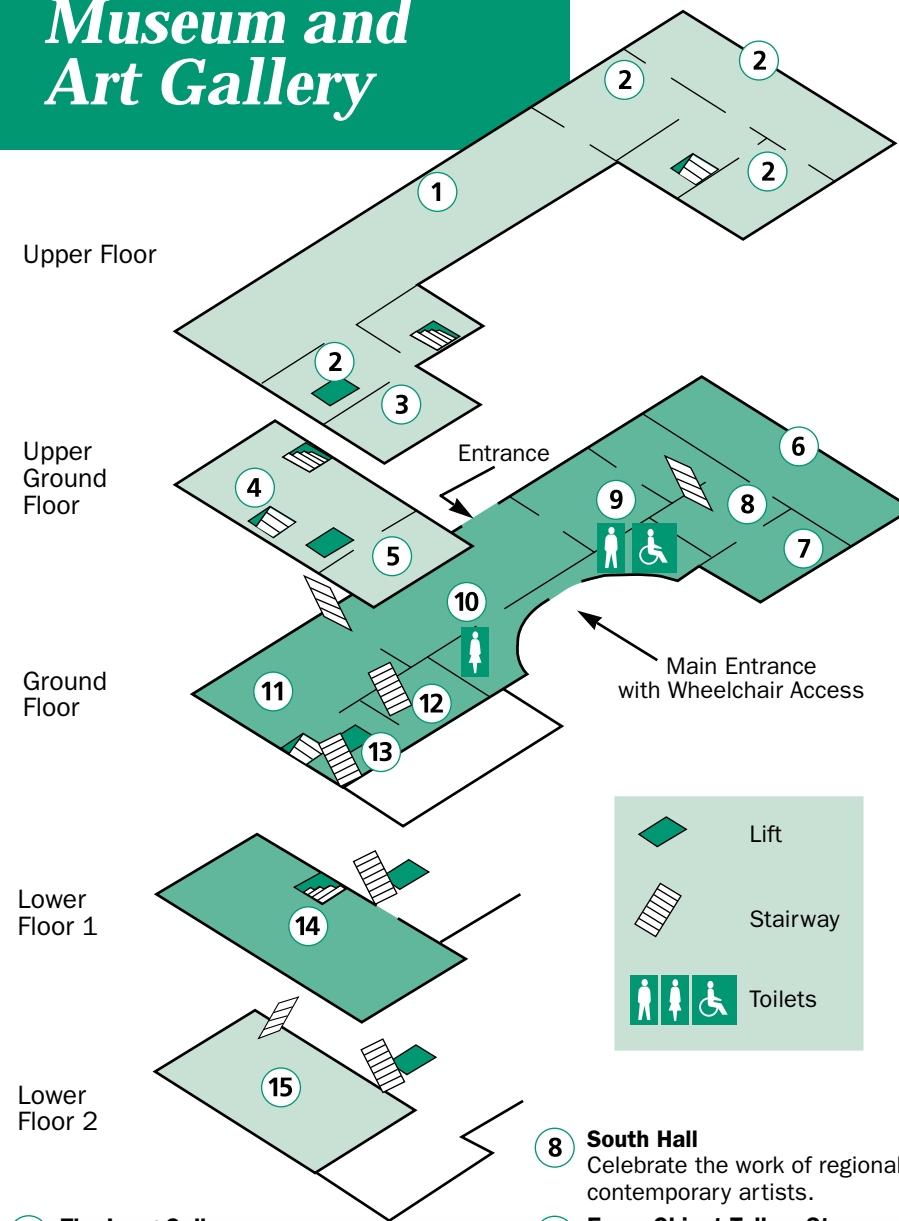
Upper Floor

Upper Ground Floor

Ground Floor

Lower Floor 1

Lower Floor 2



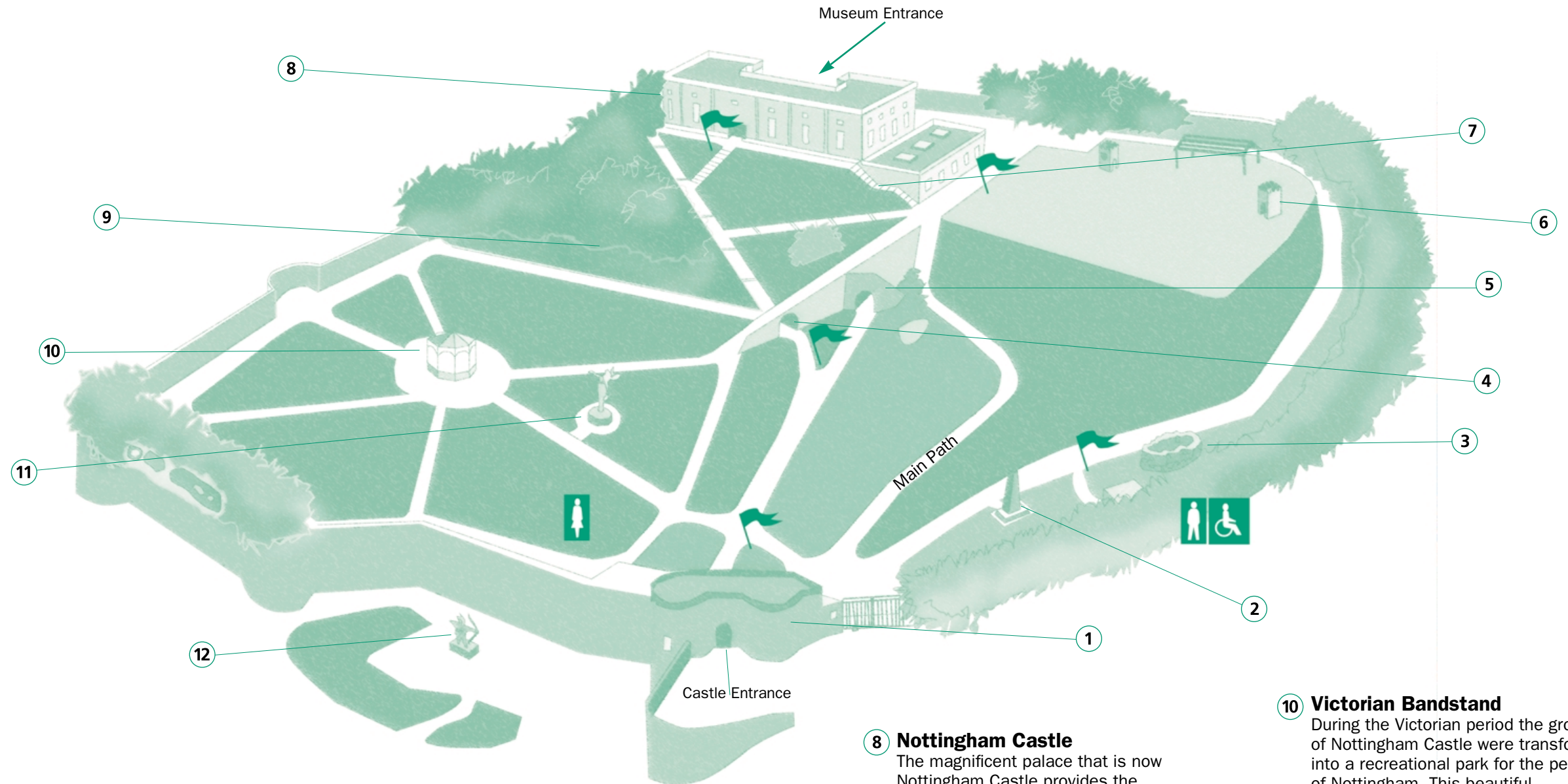
- 1 The Long Gallery**
Admire paintings from the fine art collection in the beautiful surroundings of the Long Gallery.
- 2 Temporary Exhibition Galleries**
A variety of art exhibitions are held throughout the year. See museum's "What's On" brochure for details.
- 3 Children's Gallery**
A chance for our younger visitors to have fun whilst looking at art.
- 4 Castle Celebration**
A celebration of 125 years of Nottingham Castle Museum.
- 5 Study Gallery**
See just a few of the 5,000 objects from the decorative arts collections, in particular ceramics, glass and metalwork collections.
- 6 Café**
Take a break to enjoy your lunch and admire the views over Nottingham.
- 7 The Sherwood Foresters' Regimental Collection**
An opportunity to see the heritage left by those who served in the Sherwood Foresters and their successors in the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters regiment.
- 8 South Hall**
Celebrate the work of regional contemporary artists.
- 9 Every Object Tells a Story**
Explore the rich variety of ceramics, glass and metalwork objects from across the world and the stories behind them.
- 10 Shop**
A perfect opportunity to buy a wide range of gifts.
- 11 Threads**
Connecting people from different times and places.
- 12 It's All Greek to Me**
Discover the impact the Greeks had on the world as we know it.
- 13 Ballantyne Collection**
A collection of the work of sixty British studio potters, from the 1950s to the 1990s.
- 14 The Story of Nottingham Gallery**
Beginning with the story of Snottingham, as it was then called, you will be taken through fifteen centuries of history to discover how Nottingham developed to become the thriving city that it is today.
- 15 Meet You at the Lions**
Celebrate the City of Nottingham and the people who have made it their home.

Welcome to Nottingham Castle



Nottingham Castle – The Site

Welcome to the historic site of Nottingham Castle. During your visit, explore the Seventeenth Century palace, built by the Duke of Newcastle in 1679 and now home to a museum and art gallery. Enjoy a stroll through the Castle grounds and discover what Nottingham's medieval castle may have looked like.



1 Castle Gatehouse

The Gatehouse was the only external gate into the medieval castle. Visitors to the Castle were vetted at this point by guards who decided who was friend or foe. Built between 1251 and 1255 it had two storeys and a thick timber door, a portcullis and a drawbridge. The moat over which the drawbridge spanned has now been filled in to form the entrance you walk across today. Walk down into the remains of the moat (where the Robin Hood statue stands) and look at the lower part of the Gatehouse where the original masonry survives, restored in 1908.

2 War Memorial

Erected in July 1884 to commemorate those non-commissioned officers and private soldiers from Her Majesty's 59 Regiment who gave their lives in the Afghan Campaigns of 1878-1880.

3 Medieval Tower

In the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries, Henry II rebuilt the defences of the Middle Bailey out of stone, replacing the timber and earth constructions. Those defences included the North-east tower, once standing 16 metres high. The base of this tower and part of the walls can still be seen today.

4 Medieval Bridge

Bridging the moat between the Outer and Middle Baileys of the Castle, this bridge was built during the late Twelfth Century. It is one of the few surviving remains of the medieval Nottingham Castle.

5 Tunnel

This dark and mysterious passageway leads to the entrance created for trades people to deliver goods and services to the Ducal palace.

6 Lookout! Play Area

The Lookout! Play Area is sponsored by the Boots Company and is inspired by the medieval castle. It is sited in the area originally forming the Middle Bailey of Nottingham Castle, which would have been protected by ditches and earthen banks with timber palisades.

7 Steps to East Terrace

These steps form the original stairway up to the Eastern Terrace and main entrance of the Ducal palace known as Nottingham Castle. Built in the late Seventeenth Century, they lead to the imposing front of the palace facing towards the town, a richly decorated statement of wealth and taste.

8 Nottingham Castle

The magnificent palace that is now Nottingham Castle provides the centrepiece to the site. It is a unique building, built in the Seventeenth Century and the first of its kind in England, inspired by Italian architecture. It was built by the Duke of Newcastle, William Cavendish and his son, Henry, during the period 1674-1679. The Cavendishes called the palace Nottingham Castle. In 1878 the building was converted into the first municipal museum and art gallery outside London.

9 Nottingham Castle Grounds

Nottingham Castle is a horticultural showpiece for the City. Scattered around the lower bailey area, amongst the trees and grass, are beautiful beds of floral displays. You may see many native wild flowers in the grounds, some of which are quite rare.

10 Victorian Bandstand

During the Victorian period the grounds of Nottingham Castle were transformed into a recreational park for the people of Nottingham. This beautiful bandstand was built as a centrepiece where bands played as people promenaded around the garden, enjoying the setting and the music.

11 Albert Ball War Memorial

This memorial commemorates the heroic actions of Albert Ball, who was an ace RAF pilot of the First World War. He was one of Nottingham's most famous holders of the Victoria Cross, killed at the age of 20 in 1917.

12 Robin Hood Statue

This statue celebrates perhaps Nottingham's most famous export, a creation of myth and storytelling over hundreds of years. It was given to Nottingham by E. F. Clay Esquire on 28th June 1949.

