

Totnes

Friday 22nd October



We will soon be off to Totnes for a day out.

I have arranged free entry for our group to Totnes Castle and this is timed for 12.30pm

Please meet at the bus stop by the Seven Stars Hotel on The Plains at 10.30am

Some of you have said that you are not confident with public transport and might prefer to make your own way to Totnes.

So, your options are:

1. Drive. Nearest car parks are probably Pavilions or Steamer Quay, each a 5 or 6 minute walk.
2. Bus. Stagecoach Gold leaves Plymouth at 09.10 or Ivybridge at 09.37. Arrives Totnes 10.11.

Returns every half hour .00 and.30

3. Train. Leaves Plymouth at 09.55 or Ivybridge 10.09. Arrives Totnes 10.22. (That leaves a brisk walk to the Seven Stars).

Return at 15.59 or 17.06

We will then walk up through the town passing
Wills monument (we do love our heroic failures, don't we?),
Totnes Bridge,
Fore Street,
Brutus Stone,
Elizabethan House,
Guildhall
St Mary's church

before stopping for a coffee in a spacious and well ventilated coffee shop.

Then to the castle to explore at leisure. The information on the next two pages is taken from English Heritage website.

Bring a picnic lunch.

We will walk back by way of the Narrows and the ancient Leechwell.

Please let me know if you are coming and by which mode of transport.

See you soon.

John

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THINGS TO SEE AND DO



CLIMB THE STEPS

Climb the steps of the castle keep and you are rewarded with breathtaking views across the town of Totnes and the River Dart. You can trace the development of the town through the centuries in the architecture of the buildings - can you pick out High Street, Saxon in origin flanked by the Butterwalk and Poultry Walk, which indicate the site of an early market place.



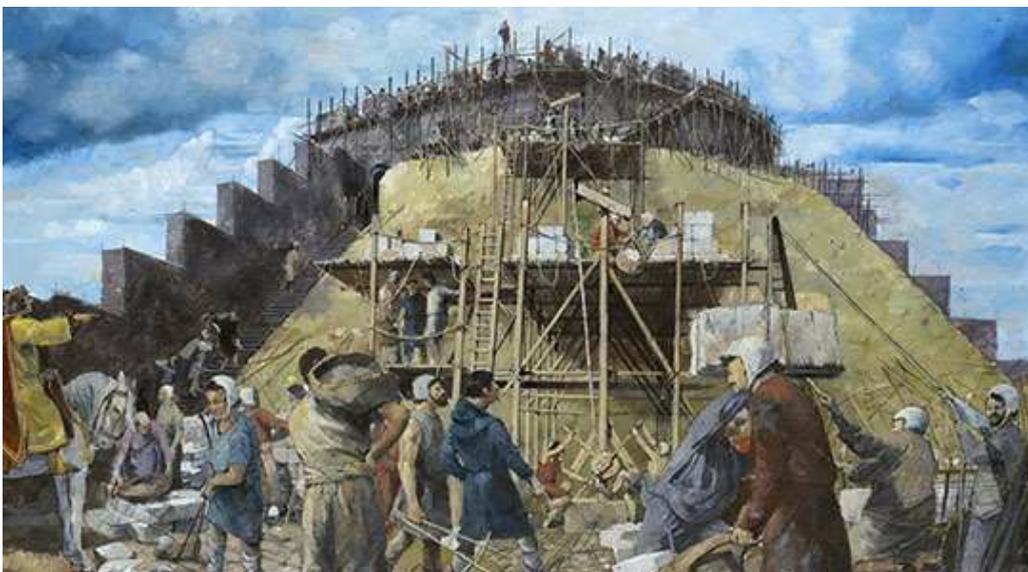
THE CASTLE KEEP

Originally the castle was an earthwork and timber construction but in the early 13th century, the shell keep was built to crown the mound and was later rebuilt and this is what you can see today. Circular in shape, it is one of the best preserved of the three such keeps in Devon and you can still see the defensive arrow slits and battlements if you look closely.



THE SAXON TOWN OF TOTNES

Totnes Castle commands a dominant position overlooking the town of Totnes. From Saxon times, the town developed crafts, industries and a mint issuing coins to become an extremely prosperous centre for trade. Today it is still a thriving town, popular with the artistic community with a great range of independent shops, cafes and galleries, all within easy walking distance of the castle.



A HOME FOR POWERFUL RULERS

Thought to have been built by Juhel, a commander in William the Conqueror's army, the castle passed through the ownership of Henry, son of the Earl of Cornwall and the de la Zouche family whose main estates lay in Northamptonshire. It later passed to Sir Richard Edgecombe of Cotehele, located on the Cornwall border. Find out more about this history in the guide book.