

Why visit Newark Castle?

There's so much to see and explore!

There are spiral staircases ...



spy-holes and gun loops,



massive
fireplaces ...

cellars, battlements and let's not forget the medieval "en-suite" toilet facilities!

Children and adults alike will love exploring this unspoiled and little-changed 15th century mansion.

**Don't forget to visit the former bake house
which is now the castle shop.**

Historic Environment Scotland is undertaking valuable restoration work at Newark, ensuring that this wonderful building will still be around for future generations. So don't be surprised to see some scaffolding,

Historic Environment Scotland look after Newark Castle and charge a small admission fee.

Newark Castle is open from April - September.

How to get there -

By bus -

From Brougham Street (just outside Greenock Ocean Terminal) - any Glasgow bus.
From Greenock Bus Station at Kilblain Street - any Glasgow bus or local bus numbers -
531 Slaemuir
533 Oransay Avenue

Alight at Coronation Park and then it is just a short walk to the Castle.

Journey time - about 30 minutes.

By train -

Alight at Port Glasgow railway station and then it is just a short walk to the Castle.

By car -

A8 just off Newark Roundabout, Port Glasgow.

Further Information

Historic Environment Scotland - more information can be obtained from their website -

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot>

Inverclyde Tourist Group - Newark Castle is included in our Port Glasgow tour which runs when cruise ships visit. Check out our website for more details -

<http://inverclydetouristgroup.co.uk/tours>

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Newark Castle

Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland



Spectacularly situated on the south bank of the River Clyde, this beautiful castle, originally built in the mid 15th century, is a wonderful place to visit and explore.

From the lofty battlements with their stunning views of the surrounding area, to the dark cellars and kitchen giving a fascinating insight into life in the 16th century, **Newark Castle** provides an authentic glimpse of Scotland's historic past.

Newark and the Maxwells

George Maxwell was the first *laird* (the Scots word for 'lord') of Newark, who, between 1450 and 1477, built a square tower which was the "new work" on the site and gave it the name 'Newark'.



This tower, containing a cellar and living accommodation on several floors, remains part of the expanded castle complex which was surrounded by a strong defensive wall enclosing a courtyard.

This is the doo'cot (dovecot - a building for pigeons or doves), which was once used as a look-out post. It is a remnant of the original wall.



The beautiful Renaissance mansion remains almost intact today. It was the work of Patrick Maxwell, who completely transformed Newark in the 1590s.

Its turrets, crow-stepped gables and pedimented windows are wonderful examples of Scottish architecture of that time.

The inscription over the door, put there by Sir Patrick Maxwell reads -
"The blessings of God be herein".



The mid 17th century saw the beginnings of transatlantic commerce, resulting in bigger ships. These could no longer navigate the shallow upper Clyde to reach Glasgow, whose merchants consequently lost trade to Newark's neighbour, Greenock. To combat this, the Glaswegians purchased land from the Maxwells and established New Port Glasgow (whose name, with the 'new' dropped, ultimately eclipsed the original one). There, cargoes were transferred to smaller vessels for transport upriver.

In 1694 the Castle itself was sold by the Maxwells and was turned into commercial premises. Perhaps the most unusual use it was put to was by a merchant who bought exotic animals from sailors back from their travels, and kept them in the cellars of the Castle before selling them on!

Inside the Castle

You must look out for the original painted ceiling decorations in the wood-panelled bedroom.



Explore the kitchen and see the massive fireplace, which once would have contained a roasting spit.



There's even a serving hatch for passing the food through to the servants, who would have then taken it upstairs to the great hall.

The wine cellar can also be seen. It has its own private stairway up to the hall.