

Famous castles in Britain

The Tower of London

The Tower of London was built in 1078, and it is one of the oldest castles in Europe. The castle has been used in many different ways – it has been both a prison and a zoo! Today, the Tower of London is home to the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom.



Stirling Castle

Stirling Castle is one of the largest castles in Scotland. The castle is made up of many different buildings, such as the King's Old Building, the Great Hall, the Royal Palace and the Chapel Royal. The Great Hall, is the largest banqueting hall ever to be built in Scotland.



Carisbrooke Castle

The walls of Carisbrooke Castle were built just after William the Conqueror and his soldiers sailed over from France and invaded England in 1066. The castle was built to help defend the Isle of Wight against invaders. In 1647, Carisbrooke Castle was used as a prison for King Charles I during the English Civil War.



Caernarfon Castle

Caernarfon Castle was built in 1283 by King Edward I after he conquered Wales. The new king built the castle because he wanted to show off his power and wealth. From above, the castle looks like a number eight. It has many towers built along its walls.



Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle is famous because it was used as Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. It was bought by the Percy family in 1309. They added towers, battlements and a strong gatehouse to the castle. Members of the Percy family still live in the castle today and welcome over 250,000 visitors every year.



Deal Castle

Deal Castle was built by Henry VIII in 1539 because he was afraid that armies from Europe and the Holy Land were going to invade Britain. The castle is shaped like a rose, which is very unusual. Some people think the shape represents Henry VIII's symbol, the Tudor rose. Others believe it was chosen because it made the castle strong.

