

Old and New Wardour Castles



WILTSHIRE TOURISM

A pleasant walk through fields and along tracks, which can be muddy in winter. Old Wardour Castle dates from the 14th century and was the site of two sieges in the Civil War. It features in the film 'Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves'. The castle is in the care of English Heritage and opens daily from April to September, but weekends only in winter. New Wardour Castle was built in the Palladian manner in the 18th century and has a fine Italianate Chapel. It is not open to the public.

The walk

1 Start

Take the track to the R of the Castle and to the L of the lake. Keep R at the lodge and soon look back for a good view of the Castle. Continue up the side of the wood. Before the archway keep R. You should now have good views of New Wardour Castle over to your R. At the field entrance, keep straight on the L of the fence towards a small wood in a dip.

2 1km/ ½ mile

Pass through a gateway with the pond on your L. At the next gateway cross the field towards

another gate. Go over stile by gate and keep straight on uphill. Bear L to fir trees, then R onto track and follow with fir trees on L and later go through entrance at side of gate. Carry straight on past house. The Latin inscription on gates on R: "Fiat Justitia, Ruat Caelum", means "Let justice be done though the heavens fall". Where gravel stops, turn R through entrance into field.

3 1.9km/ 1¼ miles

Bear R and enter wood through gate. Turn L at the clearing and walk towards farm gate. Pass through side of gate and continue

towards farm buildings, go over stile. Turn R across farmyard and straight on through a wooden gate. Pass between hedges and through another wooden gate into a field.

4 2.5km/ 1½ miles

Walk through field with hedge on your R and stream further down to your L. Cross double stile and walk towards house, crossing the bridge. Go uphill to L of house over stile.

5 3.5km/ 2¼ miles

Cross the farm road and go over another stile. Keep straight on over

a stile into woods. Continue to R of Wardour Court towards New Wardour Castle, (new developments have taken place therefore take care to follow the correct route). Turn L through bushes across a lawn bearing R through more bushes to a gravel path. Walk in front of New Wardour Castle on your R.

6 4.5km/ 2¾ miles

At end of metalled road turn R over stile by a gate. Continue along track across field and look towards Old Wardour Castle. At junction of tracks, turn L through farmyard. At end of buildings, turn L along surfaced track towards the car park.



IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Farm tracks, through fields, some rough grass, moderate hill.

Stiles 5

Suitable for

Average walkers

PLANNING

Start/parking

Car Park at ST938264

Nearest town

Tisbury

Refreshments The Foresters Pub, Donhead St Andrew. Pubs & other facilities available in Tisbury.

Public toilets At the above locations

Public transport

Bus no.26, very limited service from Salisbury to Shaftesbury - stops at Wardour & Donhead St Andrew. For further details contact Wiltshire Bus Line, tel 08457 090899

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 118 Shaftesbury & Cranborne Chase.

ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to www.visitwiltshire.co.uk, Where to Stay.