Shortlist

Attractions

Canterbury Norman Castle

Address

Castle Street
Canterbury
CT1 2PR

Contact Details

Tel: 01227 378100

The ruined castle is amongst the most ancient in Britain, begun by William the Conqueror around 1070. The stone castle replaced an earlier motte and bailey fortification built at the nearby Dane John. The keep was largely constructed in the reign of Henry I (1100 - 1135) as one of three Royal castles in Kent. By the late 1300's it had been overshadowed by the bigger fortifications at Dover and became a prison - by the seventeenth century it was already ruined. Today the roofless shell is surrounded by a quiet garden - inside you can climb part way up one of the towers. The castle grounds and ground floor of the keep are accessible, but there is a narrow gateway through the stone walls into the keep itself. At the entrance on Gas Street there is a tactile 3-D model of the castle as it would have been in 1200AD. The castle enclosure re-used the Roman town wall as its southern boundary. Some reused Roman material may still be seen in the far corner close to the Wincheap pedestrian subway. The castle is a main focus of interest on the city wall trail. Leaflets on the trail are available at the information centre in the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge on the High Street. The castle was selected as a 'Cool Place' in 2010 by the Cool Places guide.

Directions

5 minutes walk from Canterbury East Station and main bus station around City Wall.

Prices and opening

Free entry

Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Open from morning until dusk.