

Study English in one of Britain's most iconic castles

Alnwick Castle 40+ Programme

with International House Newcastle

Course Dates:

- September 14th to 28th 2025
- Group bookings available year round, subject to availability

Age Group: 40+

Programme Themes: English, History and Culture

Accommodation: On-site rooms within Alnwick Castle

English Lessons: 10 hours of lessons per week, small group classes with experienced teachers, with afternoon cultural activities and excursions

Group Size: Minimum of 10 participants

Introduction

Alnwick Castle, one of England's most famous castles, provides a stunning setting for this immersive English language programme with International House Newcastle, designed for learners aged 40+. Combining expert-led lessons with a rich exploration of British history and culture, this unique experience offers the chance to improve your English in an inspiring and sociable environment. With on-site accommodation, engaging classes, and enriching excursions, you'll explore Northumberland's heritage while developing your language skills in a unforgettable way.

Your Timetable Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Welcome & Introductions, Speaking Confidence	Practical English for Travel & Dining	British History & Culture Discussion	Pronunciation & Listening Skills	Local Legends & Storytelling	Full-day trip to Edinburgh Discover Edinburgh's historic charm on a guided trip, visiting iconic landmarks with time to explore at your own pace.	Full-day trip to Durham and Newcastle Visit Durham Cathedral, see Newcastle's iconic sights, and enjoy free time for shopping or relaxing.
Lunch/Break						
Alnwick Castle Tour & welcome drinks.	Town walk and afternoon Tea Experience.	Half-day boat trip to the Farne Islands and fish & chips dinner	Half-day trip to Cragside, the world's first home powered by hydroelectricity	Holy Island/ Lindisfarne tour with mead tasting experience		

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Your Timetable Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Social English & Everyday Conversations	Understanding British Traditions	Idioms & Phrases in British English	Reading & Discussing News Articles	Review & Farewell presentations	Full-day trip to York Experience York's rich history on a guided trip, find out more about it's history iconic landmarks with time to explore at your own pace.	Departure day
Lunch/Break						
Bamburgh Castle Tour, a historic fortress overlooking the Northumberland coast	Alnwick Gardens with English tea and scones	Chillingham Castle Ghost tour	Whiskey and gin distillery tour and tasting at Ad Gefrin	Alnmouth beach walk		

What Will Your activities include?



Alnwick Castle

Your home for two weeks, Alnwick Castle, is a stunning medieval landmark in the heart of Northumberland. Home to the Percy family for over 700 years, it offers rich history, grand architecture, and beautiful gardens. You'll have the chance to explore its interiors and to spot familiar film locations, your stay inside the castle will be a unique experience.



Farne Islands

Your adventure to the Farne Islands takes you to one of Britain's most spectacular wildlife locations. Situated off the Northumberland coast, these islands are home to puffins, seals, and a number of seabirds. With breathtaking views and a rich maritime history, the Farne Islands will give you an unforgettable experience of nature at its best.

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Bamburgh Castle

Your visit to Bamburgh Castle takes you to one of England's most iconic coastal fortresses. Perched on a dramatic clifftop overlooking the North Sea, this historic castle boasts over 1,400 years of history. With stunning views, grand halls, and fascinating stories, Bamburgh Castle offers a truly unforgettable experience.



Cragside

Your visit to Cragside takes you to a groundbreaking Victorian house surrounded by stunning gardens and woodlands. Once home to inventor Lord Armstrong, it was the first house in the world powered by hydroelectricity. With its innovative design and scenic walks, Cragside offers a unique blend of history, technology, and nature.



Holy Island

Your journey to Holy Island, Lindisfarne, takes you to one of Northumberland's most historic and scenic destinations. Cut off from the mainland at high tide, this tidal island is home to the iconic Lindisfarne Castle, ancient priory ruins, and stunning coastal views, offering a perfect blend of history and natural beauty.

Alnwick Castle Group Courses

History of Alnwick Castle

Alnwick Castle, located in Northumberland, dates back to the 11th century and is one of the largest and most iconic castles in England. Originally built by the Normans after their conquest of England, it was strategically positioned to defend the northern borders. The castle has been the seat of the Percy family for over 700 years, making it one of the oldest family-owned estates in the UK.

Over the centuries, Alnwick Castle has played a pivotal role in historical events, including the Border Wars with Scotland and serving as a fortress during medieval conflicts. In later years, the castle was expanded and refurbished during the Tudor and Victorian periods, with notable architectural improvements.

Today, Alnwick Castle is a major tourist attraction, famous for its well-preserved architecture, beautiful gardens, and as a film location for productions like Harry Potter and Downton Abbey. Visitors can explore its rich history, magnificent interiors, and stunning surroundings, offering a fascinating glimpse into England's past.



Classrooms inside of Alnwick Castle



Shared kitchen area



Shared living area



Single bedroom