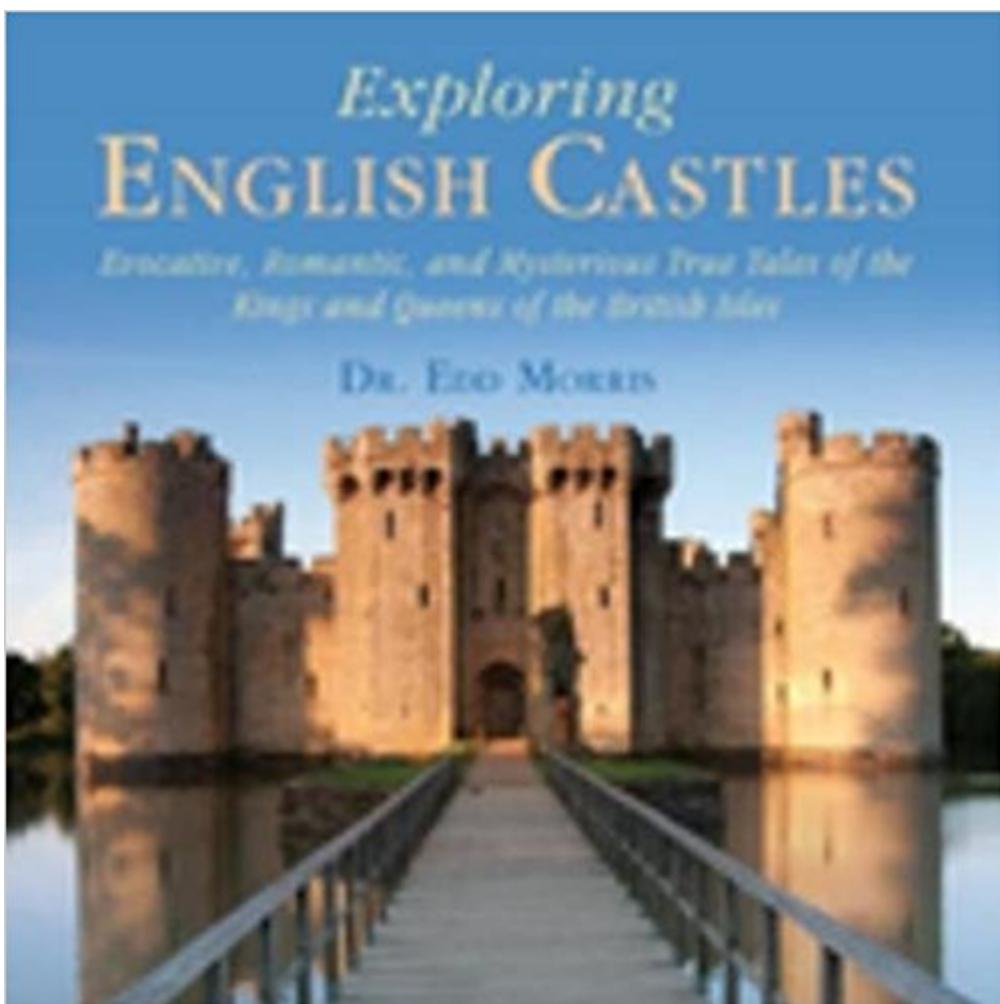


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Exploring English Castles: Evocative, Romantic, And Mysterious True Tales Of The Kings And Queens Of The British Isles



Synopsis

A guide to some of the most historical and picturesque castles in England for romantics and Anglophiles alike. Castles have shaped England. For almost one thousand years, castles have been the settings of siege and battle, dens of plotting and intrigue, and refuges for troubled kings. Today, the romantic yet ruinous shapes of once grand fortresses stud the English countryside; a reminder of turbulent times past. Exploring English Castles provides readers with a breathtaking tour through the grandest castles of England. It brings ruins to life through true stories of royalty, chivalry, deception, and intrigue, played out within formerly majestic walls. Uncover the secret of Bodiam Castle, Sussex; a fortress seemingly from a fairy tale, built for a knight returning from the Hundred Years' War. Discover how Mary Tudor, first queen of England, took refuge in Framlingham Castle, Suffolk, overturning a wily plot to deny her the throne. Unearth a delicate love story between Queen Elizabeth I and Robert Dudley, which unfolds against the genteel backdrop of Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire. Filled with evocative photographs, awe-inspiring historical tales, and gentle humor, Exploring English Castles will delight any armchair historian, travel aficionado, or fan of historical fiction.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Skyhorse Publishing (April 7, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1632203480

ISBN-13: 978-1632203489

Product Dimensions: 10 x 1.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #284,110 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #258 in Books > Travel > Europe > Great Britain > General #425 in Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History #502 in Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > England

Customer Reviews

"This big, luscious book ushers the reader over Great Britain with a special focus: nine particular castles that by their dramatic history and function stand out in the history of castle development. For each of these nine castles, the author provides a 'snapshot of one of the most notable moments in [their] past,' such as a royal visit or a particularly significant siege, by which is not only the castle's

story told but also major occasions in British history. For travelers as well as history buffs."

-A Booklist from the American Library Association

Dr. Edd Morris is a British writer who was born in rural England. His website, exploring-castles.com, is one of the web's favorite destinations about castles, entertaining more than a third of a million individuals every year. He resides in London, England.

Exploring English Castles by Dr. Edd Morris is a fantastic book that just calls out for you to pick it up and thumb through it. It is a beautiful combination of gorgeous photographs and fascinating history. I spent time in England and Wales as a child and revisited as an adult several years ago and have actually visited several of the castles covered in this book. So it was with great anticipation that I waited for its arrival. It was certainly worth the wait! The book is a wonderful history refresher and Dr. Morris has an engaging way of writing. By merging historical fact with historical trivia and everyday references, he brings history alive and evokes such a sense of place and vibrancy for each of these castles. This is a lovely book and I have totally enjoyed reading it. I shall revisit it often.

This beautiful, entertaining, and well-written book was an incredible bargain for the price. Rather than long, dry list of dates and events for the castles, Dr. Morris gives us slices of fascinating, human life, bringing history to us as if it happened yesterday. And the pictures are gorgeous! This is a coffee table book that one can actually read with pleasure. I'm a writer, so I particularly appreciated Dr. Morris' breezy, friendly writing style. Just as his history isn't dry, neither is his language pedantic. I love castles, and I've read a lot of books about them, but this is my favorite. If Dr. Morris puts out any more books, I'll snap them right up. (Just incidentally, his website is a treasure trove of information about castles, all given in his pleasant and entertaining style.)

This is not a stiff, sterile coffee table book but a fun and lively romp across English history through the lens of the castle. From its first footprint as a Norman prefab in 1066 after a hearty chicken dinner on the beach (four erected in nearly as many days!), to the delicate morphing over time in both form and function of such diverse estates - this is a quick-paced and highly entertaining read. The author is very present, both in tone and anecdote. You easily sense his enthusiasm for the subject and, as such, his ability to pull you into story seems effortless. The castles he chooses to tell the tales are not always well known, but the gripping stories they support help shift these ancient

relics into modern consciousness where they deserve a place in remembered history. As a vicarious follower of Dr. Morris' glob-trotting castle journeys via his website (www.exploring-castles.com), I couldn't wait to get my hands on this beautifully illustrated tome dedicated to English castles (my favorite!) and I wasn't disappointed. I thought I knew a lot about castley stuff (yes, I'm that obsessed!), but leave it to Edd Morris to unearth the tiniest, interesting tidbit about these enigmatic structures and the colorful characters who inhabited them. He certainly brings British history to new life in his book. I loved it!

Very well written with excellent summary of castle construction and history. Book is richly illustrated with many of the author's own photos. One point to be aware of (there is mention in description of English castles only) is this book only treats nine castles in England. Some, such as Dover and Rochester, are well known, but others are less so and mostly ruins. This book does not cover the Tower of London or Windsor. For the price, a great introduction to English castles.

I have several books on castles, but this will be my favorite. The presentation is so accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. The greatest asset is Dr. Morris' ability to spark the imagination and bring the history and culture alive behind each magnificent structure. I love the maps and extra pictures of people. The right balance of pictures and text. A beautiful and inspiring book!

This book is such a pleasant surprise! I bought it on a whim after looking online for some information on castles for a book I'm writing and what a find! I LOVE the history that Dr. Morris has included with each castle - so fascinating and intriguing! It's like taking a step back in time. Told in a knowledgeable yet humourous and engaging manner - I will read this book not only for pleasure but also for reference. The only suggestion I would make for the next book is to make the pictures larger!

I love the castles of ENGLAND and wanted a nice book to bring back memories of my travels. I bought the book for the full color pictures but there is a lot of text on the history of the castles. Great for a castle lover.

It is a beautiful, informative hard cover book. It goes into the history of castles and what they were like and why they were built. It gives many interesting tidbits.

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