

MEDIA RELEASE: NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 15th June 2021

Imagery: Craigievar Castle birthday cake to mark the National Trust for Scotland's 90th anniversary can be downloaded here: <https://we.tl/t-GA0wvAZnDK>

Craigievar Castle set to welcome back visitors The castle reopens for first time since October 2019

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed that Craigievar Castle will reopen for visitors this week (Saturday 19th June), in line with the easing of lockdown rules.

Visitors can once again discover the stunning property, said to be the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle.

An authentic tour of the castle, with no artificial lighting beyond the ground floor can be experienced, showcasing the collection of historic items and 20th-century ceramics. Within the ancient castle walls, you can see a quirky combination of cosy interiors and rare antiques.

Craigievar Castle has been in the care of the National Trust for Scotland, the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, since 1963.

As well as its picturebook castle, the site is a great place to connect with nature. Nestled on a picturesque hillside, Craigievar Castle boasts two walking routes; the Woodland Trail is perfect for nature sightings of the rare pine marten, and walkers are encouraged to listen out for the melodic songs of the willow warblers and chaffinches; the Hill Trail covers two miles, where walkers can explore the tree-lined avenues and mature woodland on the estate while soaking in the views over the surrounding farmland.

John Lemon, Visitor Services Supervisor for the National Trust for Scotland at Craigievar Castle said: "We know how much people love this place – they enjoy visiting and seeing the castle that looks like it's come from a fairytale. After a long lockdown, we're really looking forward to welcoming visitors back this month and sharing the treasures from our extensive collection once again.

"All of our properties across Aberdeenshire have been preparing to make visits as safe as possible. Pre-booking is in place at a few of our sites and there are smaller groups for the castle tours. We'd highly recommend booking your slot in advance to avoid any disappointment."

Craigievar Castle, the shop and kiosk for takeaway catering facilities will be open from 19 June - 31 October at the weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

Holiday accommodation is now open, where guests can enjoy a peaceful break in one of the cottages with views of the castle and surrounding grounds.

The Trust is urging anyone planning to visit to check the latest opening information on www.nts.org.uk before travelling, as some properties have different opening patterns this summer.

The website also contains information for visitors on the safety measure that will be in place for visits - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/what-to-expect-when-visiting-our-places>.

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Free to use images: <https://we.tl/t-GA0wvAZnDK>

Photography of Craigievar Castle cake by Alison White
Cakes by Marie-Clare Cake Design, Motherwell

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Notes to Editors

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland protects the national and natural treasures we all love. Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love Become a member at www.nts.org.uk.

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.