

Introduction

Castles are an endless source of magic and wonder. They are mostly owned by royalty, but surprise, surprise, even a coal miner or a carpenter can become a “king of a castle” as confirmed in this book.

The awe inspiring structures are built to provide safety from unwelcome intruders and to demonstrate authority, wealth and power.

These towers of power are not exclusively vulnerable to threats by humans. It is not uncommon that castles are attacked by forces of nature, storms, lightning and earthquakes as mentioned in the text.

The lavish lifestyle of dinner parties and merrymaking in castles is often counterbalanced by superstition, ghostly tragedies and death. Castles seem to create more widows than widowers as noted in the book.

Today many castles, palaces and fortifications included in this publication create a fascinating collection of museums which are open to the public.

Enjoy your journey following the stories of twenty-five castles in this book from Europe to South Africa.

List of Castles

1. Neustenstein Castle	Germany
2. Belvedere Castle	Austria
3. Buckingham Palace	England
4. Balmoral Castle	Scotland
5. Belfast Castle	N. Ireland
6. Almodovar Castle	Spain
7. Sao Joao de Arade Castle	Portugal
8. Devon House	Jamaica
9. St Olav's Castle	Finland
10. Chateau Chambord	France
11. Katriorg Palace	Estonia
12. Riga Castle	Latvia
13. Trakai Castle	Lithuania
14. Royal Castle	Poland
15. Bratislava Castle	Slovakia
16. Gyeongbokgung Palace	South Korea
17. Livadia Palace	Ukraine
18. Castle of Good Hope	South Africa
19. Royal Summer Palace	Thailand
20. Potala Palace	Tibet
21. King's Palace	Bhutan
22. Ali'iolani Hale Palace	Honolulu, USA
23. Craigdarroch Castle	Canada
24. The Parliament Building	Guyana
25. Wulff Castle	Chile