



THE GRAND BACKDROP CASTLE HOTEL

An Extraordinary English Event Venue

Photo Credit: Marc-Olivier Giguère

THE IMPACT OF A POWER BACKDROP

At Langley Castle Hotel, the stage is set even before your amazing event begins. With its 14th-century solid walls, impressive battlements, feature windows, and rich, authentic medieval character dating back to 1350, this extraordinarily breathtaking castle does more than stage your wedding or host your event gathering – it totally transforms it.

The drama commences the moment you sweep up the drive and catch sight of our Northumberland castle's incredible architecture and regal personality. It's an awe-inspiring castle with which you will instantly fall in love but also one that is not full of unauthentic add-ons that will distract the eye, if you decide to use it as your event backdrop.



Photo Credit: Alan Mason



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A full-page photograph of a couple in wedding attire standing in a grassy field at night, watching a spectacular fireworks display. The fireworks are exploding in the sky, creating large, cascading patterns of light in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The background is filled with dark, silhouetted trees. The overall atmosphere is romantic and celebratory.

And that's how you should regard our unique venue – as a stunning canvas but one on which you can paint any event or style or event that your imagination can conjure up. That might be fireworks exploding over the battlements or grounds, creating engaging Instagram Reels. It could be children enjoying sword fights and den-building activities as part of an exclusive children's party. How about transforming our woodland wedding venue for a brainstorming session, with breakout sessions with a difference, pondering topics amidst nature?

Photo Credit: Mick Merriott Photography



WHAT DOES OUR UNIQUE BACKDROP ADD?

An authentic and dramatic historical backdrop like Langley Castle's doesn't just provide a venue; it creates an atmosphere steeped in story, bygone elegance, and intrigue. Guests don't just arrive, they enter another world. This is a world of knights and entitled barons; of roaring log fires, and candlelit chambers. A world in which every corner whispers of centuries past. One that creates goose bumps.

Compare that to a bland, modern setting, which is functional but forgettable. A plain magnolia box could host anyone's event. But here, at Langley Castle, our amazing 'stage', within or without our seven-foot-thick walls, intimates something about yours. It conveys that it is special, carefully crafted and exquisitely planned. With all the personalised little touches we can add, it can also be wholly unique.



Photo Credit: Marc-Oliver Giguère



Photo Credit: One Digital



Photo Credit: Marc-Oliver Giguère



Photo Credit: Diane Makepeace Photography



Photo Credit: Carro Weddings



Photo Credit: Marc-Oliver Giguère

WHY SHOULD YOU STAGE A WEDDING OR EVENT AT THE 'GRAND BACKDROP' HOTEL?

Hosting your event at Langley Castle adds real value to your occasion. Here are some reasons why.

- **Ambience:** The authentic medieval architecture and historic charm of Sir Thomas de Lucy's castle create a mood no modern space can replicate. Your guests' experience is immersive and atmospheric, from their first step inside.
- **Memorability:** Guests are more likely to remember and talk about an event held in a 14th-century castle than one in a conference suite. When you stage a wedding or event at Langley Castle, you can be assured of making a lasting impression.
- **Photographic Impact:** Every photo taken against our amazing medieval castle backdrop becomes a keepsake, filled with character, drama, and visual appeal. It matters not whether you're planning a wedding, product launch, corporate retreat, or other celebration, as the same impact is conveyed regardless.
- **Prestige and Heritage:** Associating your event with a venue of such rich history instantly elevates its status. It adds meaning, gravitas, and emotional weight and these factors resonate with audiences. This is amplified if your guests are travelling from overseas and have a very special love of quintessential English culture.

The key message is that, when you choose Langley Castle, you're not just booking a space. You're inviting your guests to step right into the history books and be part of something truly unforgettable.





Photo Credit: Marc-Oliver Giguère

THE HIDDEN COST OF CHOOSING A BLAND VENUE

A forgettable venue can do more harm than good to your event. Whilst it may tick boxes for practicality or budget, a bland setting can quietly drain your event of energy, character, and impact, leaving guests underwhelmed, disengaged, or simply indifferent to what is happening.

When the space has no personality, the event struggles to find an identity.

In short, a lacklustre venue can cost you:

- **Atmosphere:** Without a setting that inspires or excites, your event starts flat and stays flat. No matter how good the food, speaker, or entertainment, the space itself feels sterile and uninspiring.
- **Memorability:** Guests may struggle to recall the details of what happened just days later. There's nothing to anchor the experience in their memory - no unique visuals, no sense of place, no magic.
- **Diminished perceived value:** People subconsciously judge the quality and importance of an event by its surroundings. A generic venue can make even a high-investment occasion feel that it's been arranged on a shoestring budget.
- **Missed branding opportunity:** A setting should be part of your brand storytelling. Choose a 'vanilla' canvas, and you lose the chance to make a statement about your values, creativity and ambition.
- **Weaker social Content:** In the age of Instagram, the look and feel of your event matters more than ever. A bland room gives guests little incentive to share their images.

A venue that lacks character can drain the life from your event before it even begins. When the backdrop is dull, the experience can feel forgettable. Beige is the last thing you should want your event or wedding to be.



Photo Credit: One Digital



Photo Credit: Marc-Oliver Giguère

BUT DON'T JUST LISTEN TO US...

Here at Langley Castle, we listen intently to what event organisers and marrying couples want from their event. But we also listen to the wider general public. This is why you don't just have to take our word for the fact that Langley Castle has a true wow factor. Independently commissioned research proves to us that it does.

Here are some top line findings from our research of UK consumers:

- 25%** Believe it would be 'a dream come true' to tie the knot at Langley Castle
- 39%** Say it would be 'amazing' to have the entire castle to themselves for an 'exclusive' friends and family event
- 8%** Say it would be an incredible place in which to stage a Game of Thrones themed event
- 16%** Feel our Northumberland castle hotel is somewhere the Royal Family would feel at home
- 25%** Believe Americans would 'go crazy' to stage a private party in our English castle walls
- 17%** State that Langley Castle is 'truly the stuff of fairy tales'
- 8%** Think it's the ideal place for a Harry Potter-themed event
- 15%** Would 'definitely say yes', if someone proposed at Langley Castle
- 33%** A whopping third of people say it is 'everything an English castle hotel should be
- 14%** Say it has a backdrop at which you could do something totally unexpected, such as staging an Art Deco event, a shabby chic party or a rock n' roll get-together.



WHAT SORTS OF EVENTS HAVE WE STAGED AGAINST OUR BACKDROP?

The Grand Backdrop Castle has staged a huge variety of events against the 'scenery' of its historic castle walls.

- We have held a major **Dungeons and Dragons** private event.
- We have staged a **Harry Potter-themed** wedding.
- Our Northumberland castle venue has become the glorious backdrop for a no-expense-spared multi-day **Indian wedding**, complete with Haldi ceremony, henna party and full Indian ceremony, as well as civil ceremony to fulfil English law requirements.
- It has also been the venue at which our **woodland wedding area** was brought into play, in conjunction with our historic backdrop, for an atmospheric Viking wedding. With traditional Viking hand-fastening ceremony, Norse music, axe-throwing and Kubb game, guests could almost visualise Viking longboats on the horizon.
- Other clients have enjoyed **Games of Thrones-style nuptials**, or used the woodland wedding area for a wedding in which it is very much a case of playing Robin Hood and Maid Marian for a day. In one case, they even sky-dived into the wedding!
- Talking of woodland weddings, did you know that nearly half of Brits have ever been to one? Stage your own **woodland wedding**, your way, and you will be offering something that is completely new and memorable to many people.
- Meanwhile, **classic car rallies** see us as the perfect historic setting to add gravitas beneath their deep love of classic motor vehicles. They arrive via one of England's 'Best Drives' – the A686 up Hartside – and combine the thrill of the road with the spine-tingling ambience inside our thick castle walls.
- Those who wish to **renew their vows** regard us as a venue that adds deep meaning to their renewed commitment, particularly when they can reflect in our very own chapel, set high on the battlements and originally dedicated by Pope Leo XIII.



Photo Credit: Carro Weddings



Photo Credit: Mick Merriott Photography



Photo Credit: Mick Merriott Photography



Photo Credit: Amelia Jane Photography



OTHER WAYS IN WHICH WEDDINGS AND EVENTS UTILISE OUR STUNNING CASTLE BACKDROP

- Langley Castle is an intimate venue – one reason why eloping couples make a beeline to us for exquisite weddings for two, in which we are real specialists. But did you know that we also invented the 'Bubble Wedding' in lockdown and are equally capable of staging large glamour weddings? Our Northumberland castle can truly be considered a wedding expert, no matter how large or small the occasion.
- For events such as gin-tasting, there is nothing more compelling than seeking to snap our castle walls through the 'lens' of a balloon glass. When it comes to the autumn, we are the perfect venue to be photographed whilst star-gazing under Northumberland's acclaimed dark skies. And our Starry Knight experiences are phenomenal occasions, run in conjunction with the world-famous Kielder Observatory but having unique little Langley Castle touches applied.
- Sunday roasts have no fitter setting than our Josephine Restaurant, where there is always the feel of the baronial feast in evidence. Then there is the spine-tingling feeling that comes from having a Murder Mystery event set in our unique venue, with all of its incredible history
- If you want to feel like King or Queen of the castle, this is the place at which to enjoy that fantasy world, particularly because of all our past familial connections with various kings of England.
- And as for Christmas and New Year, you can really live life like a lord who is over-wintering and celebrating all that the winter solstice and dawning of a new year can bring to the party. Just snuggle up in those faux furs and you can equally transform yourself into a baroness or knight's lady.



Photo Credit: Sean Elliott Photography



Photo Credit: Sean Elliott Photography



Photo Credit: Diane Makepeace Photography



Photo Credit: Allan McKenzie



Photo Credit: Sean Elliott Photography

THE STORYTELLING BEHIND THE UNIQUE CASTLE BACKDROP

We know that our backdrop is second-to-none and a seducer of guests. But behind this there is our team of event organisers, paddling furiously under the water, whilst acting as serene swans when greeting your guests or wedding party.

It is the narrative that we carefully weave for you, to augment our dramatic backdrop, that makes any event staged at Langley Castle hotel so compelling and so distinctive.

In a world in which far too many venues blend together in one homogeneous bubble of me-too features, our medieval backdrop stands serenely apart, offering far more than you could ever imagine from a venue.





OUR EVENTS APPROACH

With one point of contact for your event enquiries, but an army of long-serving staff to bring their expertise to bear on your wedding or event, there's nothing more to wish for. Our team considers themselves the 'Langley family' and each person who elects to hold a wedding or event here instantly gains inclusion to that family.

The fundamental point is that we care. We care deeply about our truly precious venue and hotel but we also cherish your event, the moment you entrust us with delivering it.

Perhaps we are old-fashioned, in that respect. Maybe our 1350 castle walls whisper that we absolutely must treat every guest as a lord or lady in their own right. Or is it that we just want to share the magic that we are privileged enough to enjoy each day, with both you and your guests, because we are super-hospitable hosts? All three statements are probably true.

Photo Credit: Ed Charlton Photography





CONTACT

If you wish to narrate your own story, whether it is one of love and commitment, or of business creativity, or of a role play nature that will absolutely benefit from a historic setting, you need Langley Castle.

Call our events team today on 01434 688888
or Email events@langleycastle.com



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