

1 ROYAL SITKA SPRUCES

Once you reach the BIG oak, follow the wee trail through the grasses and you will find two very tall Sitka spruce trees. These are thought to have been planted by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902.

When they were planted they were thought to be silver firs, but as they grew up, they turned out to be Sitka spruces instead.

Activity

Have a look at the trees - they don't have leaves, they have needles instead. These needles keep moisture and help the trees survive dry periods.



2 COPPER BEECH TREE

The copper beech tree is called 'copper' because of its beautiful purple copper-coloured leaves. Beech leaves are very distinctive.



Activity

Can you find any copper beech tree leaves that have fallen to the ground?

9 LAUREL DEN



Activity

Make your way under the trees - there's a lovely secret space there for you to enjoy. It's time for some tree music!! Select a stick from the ground and tap it against the trunk and branches of these trees. Can you get a rhythm going?



10 STUMPERY

The Stumpery is a fallen log which has made a brilliant bug hotel!

Activity

Have a close look and try to see how many different lichens and ferns you can see growing. How many mini beasts can you spot? Why not make your own bug hotel at home?



11 TREE THRONE

Doesn't this old tree stump make the best throne ever? Have a look around the lovely scenery. In front of you is a wetland area which is the perfect spot for frogs, bees and other insects to live.



3 MONKEY PUZZLE TREES

Here you find two adult monkey puzzle trees, with a baby tree growing next to them. Monkey puzzle trees are also known as Chilean pines, but monkey puzzle is a much better name for them, isn't it?

Activity

Look at the difference in size between the baby tree and the grown-up trees. How tall do you think the baby tree will grow? Will it eventually grow taller than the others? How about you? How tall do you think you will grow?



4 LIME TREE

The lime tree is on its own at the bottom of the Sunken Gardens. See how wide the trunk is.

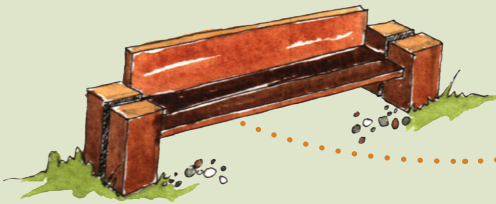
Activity

See how many of you it takes to hold hands and circle the trunk of the tree!

5 SUNKEN GARDENS

Don't you just want to run about on all this gorgeous grass?

Why not play Catch, Simon Says or Red Light, Green Light!



12 BENCH WITH A VIEW

Time for a rest and to spend time looking out over the harbour. How many boats can you see? Are there any seals or herons about?



Did you know that during World War II, sea planes used to take off from Cuddy Point?

13 LIVING WILLOW TIPI

This tipi is made from living and growing willow trees. Isn't that wonderful! Next to it is a lovely wildflower garden. See how many different flowers there are.

Activity

Time for a picnic in the tipi. Sit down for a while and listen to the birds. How many different bird calls can you hear? The Castle Grounds are home to lots of different birds including robins, wrens, hooded crows and collared doves.



6 SUNDIAL



Sundials are used to tell the time. Trouble is, you need sunlight to be able to do this!

Activity

Try and find a blade of grass or leaf and hold it up to the breeze. Looking at the map's compass, can you tell which direction the wind is blowing?

7 HORSE CHESTNUT TREE

This lovely horse chestnut tree is in a dip. In Victorian times, this dip used to be a pond which fed the fountain near Lews Castle.

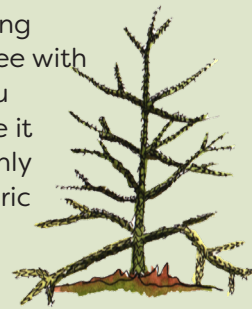
Activity

Depending on the time of year, you may even find some conkers under the tree. Have a look at the leaves - would you recognize a horse chestnut tree in the future?



8 YOUNG MONKEY PUZZLE TREE

Compare this young monkey puzzle tree with the older ones you saw earlier. Notice it has no needles, only spines. In prehistoric times, these trees developed spines to stop dinosaurs from eating them.



Activity

Try and touch one of the spines - would you eat this? (Please don't!!)

Castle Grounds GREEN TRAIL

A special walking trail in the Lews Castle Grounds for children and families to enjoy together



The Green Trail is a partnership between The Stornoway Trust and Western Isles Libraries

Green Trail

