

Houghton Lodge & Gardens

Nr STOCKBRIDGE, HAMPSHIRE, SO20 6LQ



Visitor Information for Groups

www.houghtonlodge.co.uk

Welcome

to Houghton Lodge & Gardens

Houghton Lodge is a Grade II listed Cottage Orn , surrounded by mature trees and lawns sweeping down to the banks of the famous River Test and is arguably one of the most beautiful privately owned homes and gardens in Hampshire.*

Houghton Lodge and Gardens is the ideal place to visit, whether your passion lies with historic houses or beautiful gardens - or both. Groups are invited to visit this enchanting house. Learn about the history of Cottage Orn , this beautiful genre of architecture and landscape design, of which Houghton Lodge is the best surviving example in England. Behind the doors you will see the beauty of the exquisite rooms, and listen to the stories and history that have been part of this house since it was built in 1793.

The walled garden is home to a heritage orchard enclosed by a historical chalk cob wall. It provides protection to 32 different varieties of apple tree, and Champion pear tree which holds the title for the longest espalier plant in the world with a span of 16.4m/ 54'. There is a wonderful herb garden with medicinal, natural dye, perfumery/potpourri and herbal tea beds. We have traditional vegetable beds and a fruit cage with golden and red raspberries. You will also see our hosta and iris beds, an impressive collection of Kelways peonies, bramley apple tunnel, cutting, scented beds, orchid house, sweet peas, stunning rose and clematis arbour all of which provide a kaleidoscope of colour from summer through to the first frosts of autumn.

On leaving this part of the garden, the scents and colours of the magnificent 300ft herbaceous border are an impressive sight indeed. At the far end is the entrance to our new Oriental Garden which was created in the winter of 2021/2022 and will be completed in 2024. Ambling down to the river, visitors can engage with our ever-friendly alpacas, and meet our little flock of Hebridean sheep. On approaching the wooden bridge, visitors need to be wary of our resident topiary dragon who enjoys puffing his welcome. A gentle walk up to the house gives the visitor a wonderful opportunity to take in the marvellous views. Nearby, the serpentine walk offers an enchanting mix of the quiet and scents of ancient times, with breath taking views over the water meadows. Before returning to the walled garden, see the splendour of the semi-formal box parterre that makes up the stunning peacock topiary garden.



PLANNING YOUR GROUP VISIT

To get the best from your group tour, we recommend a minimum of a 3 hour visit to enjoy both the House and Garden and have refreshments. With 14 acres of picturesque countryside and water meadows to explore and delightful tearoom, many of our visitors stay longer to soak up the peaceful surroundings.

GROUP TOURS

Guided Tour of the house - with the owner

Enjoy family stories from the past to the present day, and learn about the fascinating rich history behind the building of this stunning and unique historic house while being guided through the exquisite rooms. The tour takes about an hour, after which you can explore the gardens at leisure.

Houghton Lodge Gardens is the ideal place to visit, whether your passion lies with historic houses or beautiful gardens – or both.

Short History of the garden - with the owner

Learn about how the house and the garden have evolved from 1793 until the present day. This talk takes about 20 minutes and is held outside the house overlooking the river. It sets the scene for what your group will see when they walk round the garden, and hopefully add to their enjoyment of the day.

Contact us for more information and prices.

Admission:

Our 2026 special group rate for garden entry is £13.50pp for 29 and under, and £12.50pp for 30 and over.

Our 2026 special group rate for a house tour with garden entry is £34.50pp for 29 and under, and £32.00pp for 30 and over.

Refreshments

Pre ordered refreshments are available in the walled garden, in our newly refurbished tearoom and glass house which can seat up to 60 visitors.

Refreshments are available via **PRE ORDER ONLY** to ensure fresh food and quick service. We need to know at least two weeks before your visit what your group would like to have for refreshments.

Please can the group organiser select the same option for the group.

For visiting groups we can arrange a welcoming cup of tea/coffee on arrival, delicious lunch and cream tea. We use only the freshest and best local produce. We are afraid groups cannot order large quantities of food on the day as the kitchen is modestly sized and brought in fresh on the day.





OPENING TIMES

The Gardens are open to groups from 10.00 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1st April – 31st October. Group visits to both the House and Garden can be arranged for any day, including early evening. All group bookings must be made in advance.

Parking & Emergency Contact for Tour Operator

Parking is available for 2 coaches of up to 15 metres each, and there is ample parking for cars. We look after the coach driver and group organiser by giving them free refreshments and free entry to the gardens. Coach parties are by appointment only because we like to make sure we have the time to fully look after our groups.

Memberships

HHA, RHS and any other schemes do not apply to group bookings.



Houghton Lodge Gardens

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Email: sophie@houghtonlodge.co.uk

Telephone: 01264 810502



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Houghton Lodge Gardens

To book your group visit, please email sophie@houghtonlodge.co.uk to check availability and then complete and return this booking form. An invoice for the house and garden element of the visit will be sent to you beforehand for payment by BACS. Please note that we cannot process refunds for group members who do not appear on the day.



GROUP BOOKINGS

Name of group:

Name of group organiser:

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:

Contact number for day of tour:

Email:

Proposed date(s) of visit:.....

Time of arrival (approx.):

Estimated departure time (approx.):

No. in party (approx.):

Travel arrangements (i.e. Car / Coach):.....

Garden Only ☐ House and Garden ☐

How did you hear about Houghton Lodge & Gardens?

.....

Signature

Date.....

The group organiser will be contacted three weeks before your visit to confirm your refreshment choices and any dietary requirements. To ensure your food is fresh, please note that we cannot cater for large groups who have not pre-ordered.

GROUP CATERING MENU

Please note: We are unable to manage multiple orders for groups; therefore we ask that the same option is selected for the whole group.

Please make us aware of any dietary requirements when booking, so we can ensure that your groups needs are met. Full allergen information for this menu is available on request.

Please choose the same menu for your entire group from:

Per Person

Homemade Seasonal Soup

Hoxton Bread & Salted Butter

£8.50

☐

Homemade Seasonal Soup & Sandwich

Soup served with a Farmhouse Cheddar, Tomato & Red Onion Marmalade sandwich

£13.50

☐

The Glass House Ploughman's

Gammon Ham, Butchers Pork Pie, Farmhouse Cheddar, Pickles, Piccalilli, Apple, Hoxton Bread & Salted Butter

£14.50

☐

Finger Sandwich Selection

A selection of 5 freshly made Finger Sandwiches, Homemade Sausage Roll slices and crisp Apples.

£14.50

☐

Hampshire Beef, Confit Tomato & Basil Lasagne & Dressed Salad

Served sharing style

£16.00

☐

The Glass House Seasonal Quiche & Dressed Salad

Served with Hoxton Bread & Salted Butter

£14.50

☐

Selection of English Cheese, Sourdough Crackers, Grapes & Chutney

Served sharing style

£12.50

☐

Homemade Scone, English Strawberry Jam & Clotted Cream

Served with tea/coffee

£7.95

☐

Homemade Lemon Drizzle Sponge or Chocolate Tray Bake

Served with tea/coffee (minimum of 10 guests)

£6.50

☐

Tea/ Coffee

Served with shortbread biscuits (minimum of 10 guests)

£3.50

☐

* Please note: We DO NOT have facilities to accept credit cards. We regret NO photography is permitted in the House





Houghton Lodge
Gardens

LOCATION

Houghton Lodge is in the heart of the Test Valley, 20 minutes from Andover, Romsey, Salisbury and Winchester. We are close to excellent road networks with the M3, A303 and A30 running east-west and the A34 running north-south. Houghton is approximately an hour and a half from Central London, an hour from Oxford and 45 minutes from Southampton and the New Forest. We are five minutes from the local town of Stockbridge.

There are other local attractions with which to build your visit to the Test Valley including Mottisfont Abbey, Hilliers Arboretum, Longstock Water Gardens, Whitchurch Silk Mill and The Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery.

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 [eats.magnitude.waltzes](https://www.instagram.com/eats.magnitude.waltzes)

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Images courtesy of: RA Photography & Robin Ball Photography.

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